TALES OF THE

GREEN LANTERN CORPS

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TALES of the GREEN LANTERN CORPS

50¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 1
MAY

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

FROM ACROSS THE GALAXY THEY COME ...TO FACE ...

"THE CHALLENGE"

FOR YEARS BEYOND NUMBERING, THEY HAVE DEFENDED THE UNIVERSE AGAINST UNDYING EVIL! NOW, AT LAST, THE TALES OF THEIR HEROISM CAN BE TOLD...

TALES of the GREEN LANTERN CORPS

AT FIRST, THERE IS ONLY THE DARKNESS, INFINITE, ETERNAL--THEN AN EMERALD LIGHT OPENS A WARP IN THE STELLAR VASTNESS... AND SUDDENLY, THERE IS A MAN!

HIS NAME IS HAL JORDAN. HE IS THE DESIGNATED GREEN LANTERN OF SPACE SECTOR 2814--AND, AS HE ABRUPTLY DISCOVERS...

...HE IS NOT ALONE!

THAT BALL OF JADE ENERGY-- FOLLOWING ME FROM THE WARP--?!

CHALLENGE!

LEN WEIN: scripter--from a plot by: MIKE W. BARR / JOE STATON & FRANK McLAUGHLIN: illustrators / JOHN COSTANZA: letterer/ ANTHONY TOLLIN: colorist / DICK GIORDANO: editor

DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S *DOING* HERE-- BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A REAL *THREAT!*

IT JUST KEEPS *NUDGING* ME--LIKE IT WAS TRYING TO GET MY *ATTENTION!*

"*EH?* NOW THE ENERGY IS STARTING TO *CHANGE...*

"...TAKING ON *SUBSTANCE...FORM...*

"...BECOMING A *FACE...*

"...AND A *CUTE* ONE AT THAT!"

WOW. IT REALLY IS *YOU,* ISN'T IT?

I MEAN, YOU'RE *HAL JORDAN,* AREN'T YOU? THE *GREEN LANTERN* OF SECTOR 2814?

WELL, NOW THAT WE *BOTH* KNOW WHO *I* AM-- WHO ARE *YOU?*

GEE--*SORRY.* GUESS I SHOULD HAVE *INTRODUCED* MYSELF!

IT'S JUST THAT I'VE HEARD *SO MUCH* ABOUT YOU--!

ANYWAY, MY NAME IS *ARISIA* OF THE PLANET *GRAXOS IV!* I'M THE NEW *RING-WIELDER* OF SECTOR 2815-- THE SPACE SECTOR RIGHT NEXT TO *YOURS!*

SO HONORED *GREETINGS,* FELLOW *GL*-- I'M YOUR NEW *NEIGHBOR!*

HOPE YOU DIDN'T MIND ME *FOLLOWING* YOU-- BUT I'M SORT'A *NEW* AT THIS GAME! SO WHEN I GOT THE *SUMMONS,* I FIGURED I'D BETTER TAG ALONG WITH SOMEONE WHO ALREADY KNEW THE *WAY*-- NAMELY *YOU!*

MY *PLEASURE!* WHEN I GOT THE CALL FROM THE *GUARDIANS,* I ASSUMED THEY WANTED TO SEE ONLY *ME*--

--BUT OBVIOUSLY I WAS *WRONG!*

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE SUMMONED *ALL* THE GREEN LANTERNS--

--ALL *3600* OF US!

WOW. OH... *WOW.*

2

3

AND, AS HAL JORDAN AND HIS WIDE-EYED YOUNG COMPANION JOIN THE EMERALD PROCESSION SWEEPING DOWN TO THE PLANET OA, THAT LEGENDARY WORLD AT THE HEART OF THE UNIVERSE...

GEE, IT'S ALL SO INCREDIBLE! I MEAN, ONE DAY I'M JUST YOUR TYPICAL AVERAGE GRAXOSIAN TEENAGER--

--AND THE NEXT DAY, ALL OF A SUDDEN, I'M BUSY DEFENDING THE GALAXY!

I MEAN, WHY ME? WHY DID THEY PICK A NOBODY LIKE ME?

YOU SHOULD FEEL HONORED, ARISIA--YOU'RE ONE OF A CHOSEN FEW!

YEAH, THAT'S ANOTHER THING--!

I KNEW THERE WERE OTHER GREEN LANTERNS--HEROES LIKE YOU, HAL--BUT I NEVER REALIZED IT WAS ALL SO ORGANIZED!

HECK, I STILL DON'T EVEN KNOW EXACTLY WHO GAVE ME MY RING AND MY POWER BATTERY!

THEN YOU'D BETTER BRACE YOURSELF, LITTLE SISTER--

--BECAUSE I THINK YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT!

THE AUDITORIUM IS HUGE, TOPPED BY GLEAMING RAMPARTS--AND FILLED, AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE, BY MEMBERS OF EVERY SENTIENT RACE IN THE UNIVERSE, ALL JOINED BY A COMMON BOND...

...FOR THEY ALL HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO WIELD THE POWER OF THE GREEN LANTERN!

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NOW, AS OLD ACQUAINTANCES ARE REKINDLED AND NEW FRIENDS ARE MADE...

GK'D OF FP'Y, MEET ARISIA OF GRAXOS! SHE'S NEW AMONG US!

THEN SHE IS MOST WELCOME!

THINK YOU CAN SPARE A HELLO FOR AN OLD FRIEND, GL?

CHARLIE VICKER! HEY, IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU AGAIN! HOW'S IT GOING?

WONDERFULLY.

I HEAR CHARLIE AND YOU HAVE BECOME QUITE CLOSE, STEL OF GRENDA!

AYE, JORDAN -- THE EARTH LAD HAS MORE THAN JUSTIFIED OUR FAITH IN HIM!

HAL--YOU'RE HERE!

HONORED GREETINGS, KATMA TUI. I'VE MISSED YOU.

HONORED GREETINGS, HAL JORDAN. IT COMFORTS ME TO KNOW YOU'RE AMONG US.

YOU KNOW HER-- HUH, HAL? A LITTLE TALL, IF YOU ASK ME!

HUSH, ARISIA. ANY IDEA WHY THE GUARDIANS SUMMONED US, KATMA?

ACTUALLY, XAX OF XAOS HERE AND I WERE HOPING YOU COULD TELL US!

we know only that there is great TENSION in the air, friend Jordan--

--tension so THICK you cannot cut it with a POWER RING!

PARDON--BUT YOU ARE THE ONE CALLED HAL JORDAN?

I AM. AND YOU--?

MY NAME IS ARKKIS CHUMMUCK -- AND IT IS MY HONOR TO AT LAST MEET THE MUCH-LAUDED GREEN LANTERN OF SPACE SECTOR 2814!

NO, I SAY! IMPOSSIBLE THAT IS!

EDDORE OF TRONT AM I.., AND WELL DID I KNOW THE RING-BEARER OF SPACE SECTOR 2814...

... AND YOU, ONE CALLED JORDAN, ARE NOT MY FRIEND ABIN SUR!

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I'M AFRAID YOU'RE *RIGHT*, EDDORE, I'M *NOT* ABIN SUR-- I AM HIS *SUCCESSOR!*

YOU MEAN YOU HAVEN'T *ALWAYS* BEEN A *GREEN LANTERN?*

HARDLY, ARISIA...

"...ONCE I WAS MERELY *HAL JORDAN*, TOP TEST PILOT FOR THE FERRIS AIRCRAFT COMPANY...

"*IN FACT*, I WAS BUSY PUTTING A *FLIGHTLESS TRAINING MODULE* THROUGH ITS PACES WHEN A BOLT OF *EMERALD ENERGY* SWEPT INTO MY HANGAR --

"--AND MY SUPPOSEDLY *FLIGHTLESS* TRAINER SUDDENLY BECAME *AIR-BORNE!*"

EH? WH-WHAT'S *HAPPENING* TO ME--?!?

"AND BEFORE I COULD TAKE A *BREATH...*"

INCREDIBLE! I'M SCOOTING THROUGH THE AIR AT FANTASTIC *SPEED--!*

BUT WHERE IS THIS GREEN GLOW *TAKING* ME?

"MY FLIGHT ABRUPTLY *ENDED*, DEEP IN THE DESOLATE *SIERRA MADRE MOUNTAINS*-- AND, DAZED, CONFUSED, I STEPPED FROM MY TRAINER TO BEHOLD..."

IF I DIDN'T *KNOW* BETTER-- I'D SWEAR THAT LOOKS LIKE A *WRECKED SPACESHIP* LYING THERE--!

OBVIOUSLY, I'VE BEEN WORKING *TOO HARD!* I'M STARTING TO *HALLUCINATE* OR--

NO, EARTHMAN-- WHAT YOU SEE BEFORE YOU IS QUITE *REAL!*

HUH? THAT *VOICE*-- ECHOING INSIDE *MY HEAD--!?!*

COME IN, HAL JORDAN-- AND HURRY! THERE IS LITTLE TIME TO WASTE!

GOOD GOSH! IT'S AN ALIEN-- COMMUNICATING WITH ME VIA TELEPATHY!

I AM ABIN SUR... OF A FAR-DISTANT WORLD.. AND I AM DYING! BUT I MUST SPEAK TO YOU OF A MORE IMPORTANT MATTER...

MORE IMPORTANT... THAN YOUR LIFE?

BESIDE ME YOU WILL SEE A BATTERY OF POWER -- NOT UNLIKE A GREEN LANTERN-- GIVEN ONLY TO SELECTED INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT THE COSMOS...

...TO BE USED AS A WEAPON AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL AND INJUSTICE...

IT IS OUR DUTY... WHEN DISASTER STRIKES ...TO PASS ON THE BATTERY.. TO ANOTHER WHO IS FEARLESS... AND HONEST!

COME CLOSER TO ME...

YES...BY THE BEAM OF MY RING... I CAN SEE YOU ARE HONEST! AND THE BATTERY HAS ALREADY SELECTED YOU AS ONE BORN WITHOUT FEAR!

SO YOU PASS BOTH TESTS, HAL JORDAN...

"ABIN SUR THEN EXPLAINED HOW HIS SHIP HAD BEEN BATTERED BY THE INTENSE VAN ALLEN RADIATION BELTS SURROUNDING THE EARTH--

"--AND HOW A TERRIBLE BLAST OF YELLOW LIGHT HAD BLINDED HIM AT THE CONTROLS!

"MOMENTARILY HELPLESS, HE HAD CRASHED...

"AND NOW..."

ONLY MOMENTS LEFT TO TELL YOU... ONCE YOU POSSESS THE BATTERY YOU WILL HAVE POWER OVER EVERYTHING -- EXCEPT THAT WHICH IS YELLOW!

THE UNIQUE METAL WHICH CHARGES THE BATTERY HAS A YELLOW IMPURITY IN IT...

...YET IF THAT IMPURITY IS REMOVED, THE BATTERY LOSES ITS POWER!

I--I UNDER-STAND!

NOW TAKE MY RING... PUT IT ON--!

WITH IT, YOU CAN DRAIN POWER FROM THE BATTERY... EFFEC-TIVE FOR 24 HOURS... UNTIL IT MUST BE RECHARGED...

NOW... I'VE TOLD YOU ALL... DO NOT FAIL... MY TRUST...

UUNNHHH

GONE! HE'S BREATHED HIS LAST!

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"FOLLOWING ABIN SUR'S FINAL INSTRUCTIONS, I STRIPPED HIM OF HIS UNIFORM, AND DONNED IT MYSELF--

"--FEELING, IN THAT WAY, THAT SOME SMALL PART OF HIM LIVED ON... IN ME...

"THEN, USING THE RING FOR THE FIRST TIME, I CARVED A NICHE IN THE BARREN LANDSCAPE--

"--AND BENEATH A SMALL MOUNTAIN, I BURIED THE RUINED SPACESHIP... AND THE MORTAL REMAINS OF ABIN SUR...

"AND WHEN THAT SORRY TASK WAS DONE..."

ALL THAT HE TOLD ME IS TRUE!' WHILE WEARING THIS RING, ANYTHING I WILL TO HAPPEN-- I CAN MAKE HAPPEN!

IT'S A TREMENDOUS RESPONSIBILITY-- BUT I SWORE A SACRED OATH TO ABIN SUR...

...AND IN TIME I HOPE TO MAKE GREEN LANTERN A NAME TO BE FEARED BY EVILDOERS EVERYWHERE!

"IN THE YEARS THAT HAVE FOLLOWED, GREEN LANTERN HAS TOUCHED THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS PEOPLE--

"--BOTH FRIEND... AND FOE...

"I DON'T KNOW IF I'VE DONE AS GOOD A JOB AS ABIN SUR MIGHT HAVE DONE--"

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--BUT I'VE DONE MY BEST, AND I JUST HAVE TO HOPE THAT'S ENOUGH!

MORE THAN ENOUGH IS THAT, HAL JORDAN...

...MORE THAN ENOUGH INDEED!

IF THE CHOSEN OF ABIN SUR WERE YOU, THEN WORTHY MUST YOU BE...

...AND HONORED WOULD BE I TO CALL YOU FRIEND!

THE HONOR IS ALL MINE... FRIEND.

FELLOW RING-WEARERS --YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!

HEY, I RECOGNIZE THAT VOICE--!

ANYONE SPECIAL, HAL?

"YOU BET HE IS, LITTLE SISTER! THAT'S TOMAR-RE OF THE PLANET XUDAR, ONE OF MY OLDEST FRIENDS IN THE CORPS--

"--AND NOW A MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS' OWN HONOR GUARD!"

THANK YOU, FRIENDS AND COMRADES-- FOR YOUR SWIFT RESPONSE TO OUR URGENT SUMMONS!

MATTERS ARE GRAVE--AND TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!

AS ONE, THE ASSEMBLED ADVENTURERS SALUTE THEIR COMRADES WHO STAND ON THE RAISED PLATFORM...

YET...

AND FEW DESERVE SUCH HONOR MORE THAN TOMAR-RE!

YOU FLATTER US, MY FRIENDS--BUT WE DO NOT MERIT YOUR PRAISE!

9

RATHER YOU SHOULD PRAISE THOSE WHO HAVE *MADE* US WHAT WE *ARE*...

...THE GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE!!

AND IN A BURST OF BLINDING EMERALD LIGHT, SEVERAL DOZEN CRIMSON-CLAD FIGURES-- IMPOSSIBLY **OLD**, IMPOSSIBLY **WISE**-- SUDDENLY STAND BEFORE THE GATHERED MULTITUDE...

WOW.

AND THAT'S AN *UNDERSTATEMENT.*

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THEY ARE ALL *HERE*, TOMAR-RE?

WITHOUT *EXCEPTION*, EXALTED ONE!

THE ENTIRETY OF THE *GREEN LANTERN CORPS* STANDS READY TO DO THY *BIDDING*, MASTERS!

YOU HAVE DONE *WELL*, MY CHILDREN -- WE ARE *PLEASED!*

WHATEVER'S *GOING ON* AROUND HERE -- IT'S FIRST-CLASS *SERIOUS!*

I JUST HOPE I'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO *HANDLE* IT!

LOOK -- THE GUARDIANS ARE ABOUT TO *ADDRESS* US!

DON'T *WORRY*, ARISIA -- YOU WOULDN'T *BE* HERE IF YOU *DIDN'T!*

MASTERS, BEFORE YOU *SPEAK*, I FEEL I MUST ASK A *QUESTION!*

DO YOU TRULY THINK IT *WISE* FOR ALL 3600 OF US TO BE ASSEMBLED HERE AT *ONCE?*

DOES THAT NOT LEAVE THE UNIVERSE VIRTUALLY *DEFENSELESS?*

YOUR CONCERN IS NOTED AND *APPRECIATED*, ARKKIS CHUMMUCK -- BUT THE UNIVERSE IS BY NO MEANS *DEFENSELESS!*

WE FULLY REALIZED THE MYRIAD *DANGERS* OF SUMMONING YOU ALL SIMULTANEOUSLY --

"--AND THUS, EVEN AS WE SPEAK, SEVERAL OF OUR NUMBER ARE POSITIONED AT STRATEGIC LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE, TO SERVE FOR A TIME IN YOUR STEAD..."

"GRANTED, WE CANNOT BE EVERYWHERE.. CANNOT PROTECT EVERYTHING...BUT WE TRUST OUR HUMBLE EFFORT WILL SUFFICE!"

GEE, THEY'RE SO WISE... SO POWERFUL...

I-I JUST FEEL SO INSIGNIFICANT BESIDE THEM.

I KNOW THE FEELING WELL, LITTLE SISTER...

...BUT I TRY TO REMEMBER THAT IT WAS ONE OF THESE SAME NIGH-OMNIPOTENT BEINGS WHO FIRST UNLEASHED EVIL UPON THE UNIVERSE!

Y-YOU'RE KIDDING--!?!

I ONLY WISH I WERE--!

12

"LET YOUR MIND DRIFT BACK ACROSS THE CENTURIES, ARISIA--TEN BILLION YEARS, TO BE PRECISE--TO A TIME WHEN THE VERY PLANETS WERE YOUNG AND FULL OF PROMISE...

"... AND THIS WORLD OA WAS THE FOREMOST JEWEL IN THE CELESTIAL CROWN..

"WHILE OTHER RACES THROUGHOUT THE COSMOS WERE IN THEIR INFANCY OR NOT YET BORN, THE PEOPLE OF OA WERE ALREADY IMMORTAL...

"NEVER NEEDING SLEEP OR REST, THEY BESTRODE THIS PLANET LIKE GIANTS...

"THE ADULTS AMONG THE OANS BUSIED THEMSELVES IN AN ETERNAL STUDY OF NATURE..."

WE STILL DO NOT KNOW THE TRUE ESSENCE OF LIGHT--BUT, BEING IMMORTAL, WE HAVE ENDLESS TIME TO EXAMINE THE PROBLEM--!

AND PERHAPS ONE DAY WE SHALL SOLVE IT!

"... WHILE THE CHILDREN OF OA ROUNDED OUT THEIR DAY WITH GAMES AND SPORTS!

"IF EVER A PLANET COULD TRULY BE CALLED PARADISE, IT WAS OA...

"BUT, REGRETTABLY, THERE WAS ALSO A SERPENT LIVING IN PARADISE--HIS NAME WAS KRONA!"

WITH THIS INSTRUMENT I HAVE DEVISED, I SHALL PROBE THE BEGINNING OF ALL THINGS! NOTHING SHALL BE HIDDEN FROM ME!

THERE IS AN ANCIENT LEGEND WHICH WARNS THAT, SHOULD WE EVER LEARN OF OUR TRUE ORIGIN, OUR UNIVERSE WILL BE INSTANTLY DESTROYED--

--BUT SUCH LEGENDS ARE TALES ONLY FOOLS WOULD FEAR!

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"DESPITE THE PLEAS OF OTHERS, KRONA CONTINUED HIS CEASELESS LABORS, UNTIL AT LAST..."

WHAT--?!? THERE'S AN IMAGE FORMING... A SHADOW LIKE A GIANT HAND... WITH SOMETHING... A CLUSTER OF STARS IN IT--!

I MUST GO BACK FURTHER--FURTHER--!

"THEN, SUDDENLY..."

YAAHH--!!

"...A TERRIBLE BOLT OF COSMIC LIGHTNING SPLINTERED THE MACHINE--NEARLY DESTROYING KRONA IN THE PROCESS!

"IT WAS AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT THAT EVIL WAS LET LOOSE ON THE UNIVERSE!

"IT SPREAD SWIFTLY FROM WORLD TO WORLD, TOUCHING INTELLIGENT CREATURES WHO DID NOT SHARE THE OANS' GIFT OF IMMORTALITY...

"BROTHER KILLED BROTHER! HATRED AND VIOLENCE FLOURISHED--

"--AND THE OANS KNEW IT HAD ALL BEEN CAUSED BY KRONA'S INSATIABLE AMBITION!

"ONCE AGAIN THEY APPEALED TO HIM--AND ONCE AGAIN HE SPURNED THEM!"

NO! I WILL NEVER STOP SEARCHING TO LEARN OUR ORIGINS--AND YOU DARE NOT HARM A FELLOW IMMORTAL!

AYE, KRONA--BUT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO DEAL WITH YOU!

"WITH THEIR LIMITLESS POWERS, THE OANS SEIZED KRONA, REDUCED HIM TO A DISEMBODIED STATE IN A PRISON OF PURE ENERGY--

"--THEN SENT HIM ON AN ENDLESS JOURNEY ACROSS THE INFINITE!

"THAT SORRY TASK DONE, THEY ALL GATHERED IN THE TEMPLE OF THE ELDERS--AND DEBATED QUITE LITERALLY FOR AGES HOW BEST TO STEM THE TIDE OF EVIL KRONA HAD UNLEASHED...

"THEIR FINAL DECISION WAS AN OBVIOUS ONE...

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"THOUGH THEY COULD NOT DESTROY EVIL, THEY WOULD DO WHAT THEY COULD TO COMBAT IT-- EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD MEAN ABANDONING EXISTENCE AS THEY KNEW IT, FOREVER FORSAKING THEIR LIVES OF RESEARCH AND PLEASURE...

"ON A SPRAWLING PLAIN, THE OANS GATHERED--

"--CLASPING HANDS AROUND THE HUGE EMERALD POWER BATTERY THEY HAD BUILT TO AID THEM IN THEIR STRUGGLE--

"--AND IN THAT MOMENT OF PRAYER AND DEDICATION, THE PHILOSOPHERS OF OA WERE REBORN AS--THE GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE!

"AS THE EONS PASSED, THE GUARDIANS EVOLVED, AS A FORM OF AGING, INTO THE VENERABLE BEINGS THEY ARE TODAY-- STILL BATTLING EVIL AND AIDING ALL CREATURES OF GOOD WILL!

"AT FIRST, THEY DESIGNED A GROUP OF ANDROIDS CALLED THE MANHUNTERS TO BE THEIR AGENTS--

"--BUT WHEN THE MANHUNTERS PROVED UNTRUSTWORTHY, THE GUARDIANS DECIDED TO EMPLOY LIVING AGENTS...

"THOSE AGENTS EVENTUALLY BECAME THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS YOU AND I ARE NOW PART OF, ARISIA--A PROUD AND NOBLE HERITAGE!"

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WOW--THAT'S SOME *STORY!* THAT GUY *KRONA* GIVES A WHOLE NEW MEANING TO THE WORD *EVIL!*

QUITE *LITERALLY,* ARISIA-- AND, BEL!EVE ME, I *KNOW!*

I'VE *FOUGHT* KRONA-- AND BARELY LIVED TO *TELL* OF IT!

HUH? YOU MEAN THAT CREEP CAME *BACK?*

"LIKE THE PROVERBIAL **BAD PENNY,** LITTLE SISTER. A FREAK **ACCIDENT** RELEASED KRONA FROM HIS **ENERGY PRISON,** AND HE SET UP HOUSEKEEPING ON MY NATIVE **EARTH**--

"--WHERE HE MANAGED TO **CAPTURE** ALL THE GUARDIANS, THEN PREPARED TO FINISH WHAT HE HAD BEGUN SO MANY CENTURIES **BEFORE**--

"--NAMELY, WITNESSING THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE!

"IT WAS ONLY WITH THE HELP OF **ALAN SCOTT**-- THE ORIGINAL **GREEN LANTERN** OF A PARALLEL WORLD CALLED **EARTH-2**-- THAT I WAS ABLE TO PREVENT **ARMAGEDDON,** AND FINALLY CAPTURE **KRONA**...

"...TRANSFORMING HIM INTO **ENERGY** AGAIN, AND SENDING HIM BACK ON HIS INFINITE JOURNEY!"

AND YOU WERE *WELL-PRAISED* FOR YOUR WORK AT THAT TIME, HAL JORDAN!

NOW IF YOU AND YOUNG ARISIA OF GRAXOS WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO GIVE US YOUR UNDIVIDED *ATTENTION*--

--WE WILL *EXPLAIN* THE URGENT REASON WE HAVE *SUMMONED* YOU ALL--!

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TOO LATE, MY BROTHER-- THE MENACE DRAWS NIGH!

EVEN NOW, I CAN FEEL THE VERY FABRIC OF SPACE STRAINING... RIPPLING...

NO-- IT IS TOO SOON! WE ARE NOT READY--!

ACTIVATE THE STELLAR SCREEN!

LET ALL ASSEMBLED BEHOLD THE THREAT WE FACE!

WITH THAT, THE ROOM GROWS DARK-- SAVE FOR A HUGE CIRCULAR CRYSTAL WHICH ABRUPTLY GLOWS BRIGHT TO REVEAL A PANOPLY OF STARS...

THEN, BEFORE THE ASTONISHED EYES OF THE ASSEMBLED MULTITUDE, A JAGGED RENT APPEARS IN THE CELESTIAL TAPESTRY--

--A RENT TORN WIDER-- EVER WIDER-- BY A MONSTROUS PAIR OF MAIL-GAUNTLETED HANDS...

ON THE FLOOR OF THE VAST AUDITORIUM, A SEA OF GREEN LANTERNS STANDS STUNNED, SPEECH-LESS--

--WHILE THEIR IMMORTAL MASTERS DRAW BACK A STEP, THEIR LEARNED MINDS AWHIRL WITH THOUGHTS WHICH THEY ALONE MAY KNOW...

OF ALL THE THOUSANDS OF BEINGS HERE ASSEMBLED, THERE IS ONLY ONE WHO CAN FIND A VOICE--

--SOFT AND TIMID THOUGH IT MAY BE.

HOLY GEE-- WH-WH-WHO IS--THAT!?!

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HE STRIDES THROUGH THE RENT IN SPACE EAGERLY, CLAD IN GLEAMING BATTLE-ARMOR THAT LEAVES NO DOUBT AS TO HIS PURPOSE, FLANKED BY HIDEOUS, CHITTERING CREATURES WHO LEAVE NO DOUBT AS TO HIS LEAGUE...

HE IS KRONA-- AND AS THE UNWITTING ARISIA HAS SAID, HE GIVES A WHOLE NEW MEANING TO THE WORD EVIL!

MEN OF OA--YOU WHO NOW CALL YOURSELVES GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE-- I KNOW YOU ARE WATCHING ME, SO HEED MY WORDS WELL!

I AM COMING FOR YOU, GUARDIANS-- COMING TO DESTROY YOU AND YOUR PRECIOUS UNIVERSE--

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--AND THERE IS NOTHING YOU OR YOUR SIMPERING GREEN LANTERNS CAN DO TO STOP ME!!

SKRAKK

THE STELLAR SCREEN--!?! HE'S FRACTURED IT-- THROUGH SHEER FORCE OF WILL--!

THE SILENCE THAT HAD PRECEDED KRONA'S DIRE WARNING RETURNS NOW, FILLING THE SPRAWLING CHAMBER LIKE A THICK, VISCOUS FLUID...

INTERMINABLE SECONDS PASS AS THE ANCIENTS OF OA AND THEIR CHAMPIONS STARE MUTELY AT THE SUNDERED SCREEN--

--THEN TWO GENTLY MUTTERED WORDS SHATTER THE OVERWHELMING STILLNESS...

GREAT... GUARDIANS...

PERHAPS...BUT NOT GREAT ENOUGH TO DEFEAT KRONA-- AND THE ALL-POWERFUL ONE WHO IS NOW HIS MASTER-- WITHOUT YOUR AID!

YOU HAVE SEEN NOW WHY YOU WERE SUMMONED HERE, MY CHILDREN...

YOU HAVE SEEN NOW THE SOURCE OF OUR UNENDING SHAME!

IT WILL TAKE ALL WE HAVE TO GIVE-- AND MORE--TO PUT A STOP TO KRONA AND HIS MASTER, GREEN LANTERNS!

TO THE BATTERY OF POWER-- AND THE RITUAL!

THUS, TO THE GREAT CENTRAL BATTERY WITH YOU ALL--THAT YOU MAY RECHARGE YOUR POWER RINGS!

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WITHOUT HESITATION, 3600 BEINGS WHO ALL SHARE THE NAME GREEN LANTERN TOUCH THEIR EMERALD RINGS TO THE GIANT POWER BATTERY TO DRAW STRENGTH FOR ANOTHER DAY...

FOR SOME, IT IS A SOLEMN TIME...

IN BRIGHTEST DAY, IN BLACKEST NIGHT, NO EVIL SHALL ESCAPE MY SIGHT! LET THOSE WHO WORSHIP EVIL'S MIGHT, BEWARE MY POWER-- GREEN LANTERN'S LIGHT!

FOR OTHERS, IT IS A TIME OF UNBRIDLED JOY...

FROM LANTERN COMES THE GIFT WE, GIVE--TO SHED LIGHTS GRACE ON ALL THAT LIVE!

BUT TO ONE AND ALL, WHATEVER THEIR CREDO, WHATEVER THEIR OATH, THE SPIRIT OF THE ACT IS THE SAME--

--TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE ALL THAT IS GOOD AND JUST IN THE UNIVERSE, WITH THEIR HEARTS--

--AND, IF NECESSARY, WITH THEIR LIVES!

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THEN, AS THE SACRED CEREMONY AT LAST REACHES ITS CONCLUSION...

BY THE HEART OF SQ'ZKZ! SUDDENLY SOMETHING SEEMS WRONG WITH THE GREAT BATTERY--!

IT'S BEGUN TO TREMBLE *VIOLENTLY*-- AS IF IT WERE TRYING TO *TEAR ITSELF APART!*

PERHAPS IT COULD NOT *TOLERATE* BEING TAPPED FOR SO MUCH POWER ALL *AT ONCE!*

NO, I'M AFRAID IT'S SOMETHING *MORE* THAN THAT-- SOMETHING *SINISTER!*

WE'D BETTER MOVE *AWAY* FROM THE POWER BATTERY, MY FRIENDS -- AND *QUICKLY!*

FROM THE WAY THIS THING IS *SHAKING*, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF *MOMENTS* BEFORE IT--

--EXPLODES.

BUT HAL JORDAN'S DESPERATE WARNING IS TOO LITTLE TOO LATE!

EVEN AS HE SPEAKS, THE AWESOME BATTERY OF POWER ERUPTS IN GREAT GOUTS OF GRIM GREEN FLAME, HURLING ITS EMERALD-CLAD SERVITORS AWAY LIKE SO MUCH DUST BEFORE A STORM...

SKA-VA-DOOM

21

FOR SEVERAL TERRIBLE SECONDS, THE BATTERED RING-WEARERS LIE SENSELESS--THEN, SLOWLY, HESITANTLY, THEY RISE ONCE MORE...

...AT LEAST, THOSE WHO STILL CAN!

MY GOD... WHAT CARNAGE!

AND THERE ARE OTHERS STILL TRAPPED BENEATH THE RUBBLE--!

THEN WE'VE GOT TO GET THEM OUT OF THERE-- BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

I'M AFRAID IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE FOR SOME OF THEM, LITTLE SISTER!

STILL, WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN!

AND SO THEY DO-- SOME OF THE GREEN LANTERNS PULLING BRUISED AND BLOODIED BODIES FROM BENEATH THE JADE-GREEN WRECKAGE...

CLING TO ME, SKRYD OF MULTU-- LET MY STRENGTH BE YOURS!

WHILE OTHERS SEEK TO SMOTHER THE EMERALD FLAMES THAT STILL LICK AT THE VAULTED CEILINGS...

BEWARE, brothers! These fires are born of the power battery's ENERGY-- and can do us great HARM!

LOOK AT THEM ALL-- SO BRAVE, SO SELFLESS-- FACING DEATH WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST HESITATION...

...AND THEY'VE CHOSEN ME TO BE ONE OF THEM...

...SO HOW CAN I DO ANY LESS?

HURRY, KATMA TUI-- I'LL TRY TO KEEP THOSE CREEPY FLAMES BACK TILL YOU'RE CLEAR!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE... LITTLE SISTER.

HELP ME, BROKK OF CYGNUS! THERE MAY YET BE OTHERS BURIED BENEATH THIS--LOOK!

EDDORE OF TRONT, ARE YOU INJURED?

NO, MY FRIEND, UNHARMED AM I...

...BUT NO MORE WILL SPAK-DROM OF XERSES FIGHT BESIDE US!

IN PEACE MAY YOU REST, OUR BROTHER OF THE RING!

AVENGED YOU WILL BE...

AYE... AVENGED!

VENGEANCE: IT IS A THOUGHT THAT BURNS IN THE MINDS OF ALL WHO SURVIVED THIS SUDDEN DISASTER--

--FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN HERE WERE FAR MORE THEN MERE COMRADES-IN-ARMS...

THEY WERE FRIENDS... THEY WERE SOUL-MATES...

...AND THEY WERE LOVED!

23

WE'VE SIFTED THE *RUINS*... DONE ALL THAT WE *COULD*...

LORD, SO MANY OF US *DEAD*...

I KNOW HOW YOU *FEEL*, HAL.

I'VE ONLY JUST *MET* THEM-- AND YET *LOSING* THEM TEARS MY *HEART* OUT!

FARE YE WELL ON THY GREAT *JOURNEY* TO THE *NEXT LIFE*, BROTHERS AND SISTERS...

THE GLORIOUS *LIGHT* THOU HAST SHED UPON THIS UNIVERSE SHALL NEVER *FADE!*

WELL, GUARDIANS, WHAT DO WE DO *NOW?* WITHOUT THE *CENTRAL POWER BATTERY*, WE ONLY HAVE--

--HUH?

WHAT *IS* IT, HAL? WHAT'S *WRONG?*

LOOK AT THE *PLATFORM*, ARISIA--IT'S *EMPTY!*

THE GUARDIANS ARE *GONE!*

AYE, HAL JORDAN-- GONE TO FIGHT A BATTLE THAT WE ALONE MUST WAGE!

YOU MUST NOT ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW US!

24

YOUR TASK IS TO FIND KRONA AND PUT AN END TO HIS MADNESS--BEFORE HE CAN ANNIHILATE OUR UNIVERSE!

I WISH YOU LUCK, MY CHILDREN...

...THOUGH I PRAY YOU WILL NOT NEED IT!

H-HE'S GONE AGAIN--!

LEAVING US WITH ONE LITTLE PROBLEM, ARISIA!

WITH THE CENTRAL POWER BATTERY DESTROYED, WE HAVE LESS THAN 24 HOURS LEFT TO DEFEAT KRONA--

--BEFORE OUR POWER RINGS BECOME UTTERLY USELESS!

BUT WE'LL FIND KRONA-- AND WE'LL BEAT HIM--

--OR WE WON'T BE WORTHY OF THE NAME GREEN LANTERN!

AND SOMEWHERE HALFWAY ACROSS THE GALAXY, THE RENEGADE OAN CALLED KRONA SUDDENLY LAUGHS--

--AND IT IS A MOCKING LAUGH THAT COULD CHILL THE DEAD!

TALES of the GREEN LANTERN CORPS

50¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 2
JUNE

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE ENTIRE CORPS LIES SPRAWLED IN DISMAL...

"DEFEAT!"

BOLLAND

FOR YEARS BEYOND NUMBERING, THEY HAVE DEFENDED THE UNIVERSE AGAINST UNDYING **EVIL!** NOW, AT LAST, THE TALES OF THEIR **HEROISM** CAN BE TOLD...

TALES of the GREEN LANTERN® CORPS

OUT HERE, AT THE VERY **EDGE** OF THE UNIVERSE, THE **STARS** THEMSELVES ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN...

THUS, THE SUDDEN, UNEXPECTED APPEARANCE OF A BAND OF EMERALD **LIGHTS** IS A NOTEWORTHY **EVENT**--

-- MADE ALL THE **MORE** SO WHEN ONE CONSIDERS **THIS**:

THE CRIMSON-CLAD FIGURES **RESPONSIBLE** FOR THAT JADE-GREEN GLOW MAY WELL BE THIS UNIVERSE'S LAST LONE HOPE FOR **SURVIVAL**!

J-7300

IT SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE *NEAR*, MY BROTHERS -- THE *RIFT* THROUGH WHICH THE EVIL *KRONA* RETURNED TO OUR UNIVERSE!

THEN WHY CAN WE NOT *SEE* IT?

APPARENTLY, KRONA HAS SOMEHOW *CLOAKED* IT--!

BUT PERHAPS OUR *POWER-PROBES* CAN UNCOVER ITS *LOCATION* BEFORE--

THERE, MY BROTHERS!

THERE IS KRONA'S *PORTAL* -- A FESTERING *SORE* IN THE VERY FABRIC OF THE *COSMOS!*

WE MUST APPROACH IT *CAUTIOUSLY!* NOT EVEN *WE* CAN KNOW PRECISELY *WHAT* AWAITS US *BEYOND!*

REGRETTABLY, THE ANSWER TO THAT IS ALL TOO SIMPLE: IT IS DEATH WHICH WAITS BEYOND THE PORTAL...

AYE, QUITE LITERALLY-- DEATH!

AND FOR THESE BLUE-SKINNED GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE AND THEIR FAITHFUL GREEN LANTERN CORPS, THAT CAN ONLY SPELL...

DEFEAT!

LEN WEIN - *scripter* -- *from a plot by* MIKE W. BARR
JOE STATON & FRANK McLAUGHLIN - *artists*.
BEN ODA - *letterer* -- ANTHONY TOLLIN - *colorist*
DICK GIORDANO - *editor*

FEATURING CONCEPTS CREATED BY *MARV WOLFMAN*

2

3

IT SEEMS WE WERE *EXPECTED*, BY HIM WHO IS NOW KRONA'S *MASTER*!

QUICKLY, BROTHERS-- THE PORTAL MUST BE *CLOSED*!

BUT BEFORE THAT END CAN BE ACHIEVED, THE DARKNESS OF SPACE IS SUDDENLY SLASHED ONCE MORE BY AN EVEN GREATER DARKNESS--

--AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN UNTOLD MILLENNIA, THE IMMORTAL GUARDIANS KNOW THE RAVAGES OF PAIN...

INCREDIBLE! THAT DEMONIC *DARK LIGHTNING* CAN ACTUALLY DO US *HARM*!

THESE PASSING *METEORS* CAN PROTECT US FOR A *TIME*-- BUT THEY ARE A *TEMPORARY* SOLUTION AT *BEST*!

4

WE HAVE *ERRED*, BROTHERS!

WE ORDERED OUR *GREEN LANTERN CORPS* TO PURSUE *KRONA* AND PUT AN *END* TO HIS SOULLESS *VILLAINY*--

--BUT NOW IT APPEARS THAT THE *GREATER* MENACE LIES *HERE!*

AND, AS IF IN RESPONSE, A MONSTROUS FACE SUDDENLY APPEARS BEFORE THE PORTAL, SALLOW, CADAVEROUS--

--A FACE THAT HAS NEVER KNOWN JOY, BUT NOW TREMBLES WITH MALEVOLENT MIRTH...

YOU ARE NOBLE, GUARDIANS-- BUT YOU ARE FOOLISH!

IN DUE TIME, YOU WILL DISCOVER THAT EVEN AN IMMORTAL CAN DIE!

AND THEN THE FACE IS GONE!

FOR A MOMENT, THE GUARDIANS PAUSE, COMMUNICATING ON A LEVEL ALMOST BEYOND COMPREHENSION, THEN...

IT IS *DECIDED* THEN! YOU MUST FLY TO OUR *GREEN LANTERN CORPS* AND WARN THEM OF WHAT WE HAVE *LEARNED* HERE!

FLY *SWIFTLY*, BROTHER--FLY *TRUE*! I FEAR *TIME* IS NOT ON OUR *SIDE*!

5

WHILE COUNTLESS LIGHT YEARS DISTANT, AT THE VERY HEART OF THE UNIVERSE, ON THE LEGENDARY PLANET CALLED OA--

--A SOMBER ASSORTMENT OF ALIEN BEINGS MULL ABOUT A HUGE AUDITORIUM, SIFTING AIMLESSLY THROUGH THE RUBBLE OR STRUGGLING IN VAIN TO REPAIR THE GREAT EMERALD BATTERY WHICH ONCE DOMINATED THIS HALL...

THEY HAVE LITTLE IN COMMON, THESE VARIOUS BEINGS, SAVE FOR THE JADE-GREEN UNIFORMS THEY ALL W AND THE CREED THEY ARE ALL SWORN TO UPHOLD...

THESE ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS--AND UNTIL TODAY, THEY HAD NEVER KNOWN FEAR!

BUT NOW, AS THEY ATTEND TO THEIR DEAD AND SURVEY THE DEVASTATION WHICH SURROUNDS THEM, EVEN THE STAUNCHEST AMONG THEM CANNOT SUPPRESS A CHILL SHUDDER OF DOUBT!

THEY ARE STUNNED, DISTRACTED, CONFUSED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AGES--

--ALL, THAT IS SAVE ONE!

WE'RE WASTING PRECIOUS TIME WE CAN NO LONGER SPARE!

SOMEBODY HAS TO DO SOMETHING--SO IT MIGHT AS WELL BE ME!

FELLOW RING-WIELDERS--YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!

PAY HEED, BROTHERS AND SISTERS--HAL JORDAN OF EARTH DESIRES TO BE HEARD!

THEN LET HIM SPEAK, STEL OF GRENDA--AND GALIUS-ZED, FOR ONE, WILL LISTEN!

So will we ALL!

LOOK, I KNOW HOW YOU ALL *FEEL* -- BECAUSE I *SHARE* THOSE FEELINGS!

MANY OF THE GREEN LANTERNS *KILLED* WHEN THE MASTER POWER BATTERY *EXPLODED* WERE FRIENDS OF *MINE* AS WELL!

I *FOUGHT* BESIDE THEM... *LAUGHED* BESIDE THEM... AND NOW I MOURN THEIR *LOSS!*

I APPRECIATE THE DIFFERENCES IN OUR *CUSTOMS*...

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU EACH IN YOUR OWN WAY WISH TO SEND OUR FALLEN BROTHERS TO THEIR *FINAL REST*...

"...BUT THERE SIMPLY ISN'T TIME FOR THAT NOW!"

BEFORE THE GUARDIANS MYSTERIOUSLY *VANISHED*, THEY HAD SUMMONED US HERE TO DEAL WITH THE MENACE OF *KRONA*, HIMSELF A *RENEGADE* OAN--

--AND, UNTIL THE GUARDIANS RETURN TO TELL US *OTHERWISE*, THAT HAS TO BE OUR *PRIMARY CONCERN!*

WE'VE GOT TO *TRACK DOWN* KRONA AND HIS ARMY OF *MISFITS*, AND WE'VE GOT TO DO IT *FAST*--

--BECAUSE, WITH THE MASTER POWER BATTERY *DESTROYED*, OUR RINGS HAVE LESS THAN *24 HOURS* OF POWER *LEFT!*

EVERY SECOND *COUNTS* NOW-- BUT I CAN'T DO IT *ALONE!*

WELL... WHO'S *WITH* ME?

"ARISIA?"

YOU *KNOW* I AM, HAL... TO THE *END!*

"EDDORE OF TRONT?"

INDEED, FRIEND JORDAN... AND GLADLY!

"KATMA TUI?"

NEED YOU REALLY *ASK*, OLD FRIEND?

"TOMAR-RE?"

IT WILL BE JUST LIKE *OLD TIMES* AGAIN!

"ARKKIS CHUMMUCK?"

I WOULD BE *HONORED* TO FIGHT BESIDE YOU, JORDAN!

"GALIUS-ZED?"

AYE, FELLOW WARRIOR --IF THOU WOULDST *HAVE* ME!

OUR FELLOW RING-BEARERS ARE READY FOR *BATTLE*, TOMAR-RE -- BUT AS THE CORPS' *HONOR GUARD* IT IS FOR US *THREE* TO MAKE THE *FINAL DECISION!*

IT WOULD APPEAR THE DECISION HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE *FOR* US, K'RYSSMA!

ARE WE *AGREED*, APROS?

Σ⊣JS (=)ƆЦ

THEN *SO BE IT!*

LET US SCOUR THE UNIVERSE ENTIRE FOR *KRONA* AND HIS BAND--

"--AND WOE BE UNTO THEM WHEN AT LAST WE FIND THEM!"

8

IT IS STEL OF GRENDA WHO FIRST ARCS OUT OF WARP IN THE ANDROMEDA SYSTEM, HIS MECHANICAL BODY URGED ON BY A VERY UNMECHANICAL IMPULSE--

--AND THUS, HE IS ALSO THE FIRST TO SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS QUEST...

EH? SOMETHING BEHIND ME--!

INSTANTLY, THE ROBOT GREEN LANTERN WHIRLS--

--A FRACTION OF AN INSTANT TOO LATE!

UUNNHH!!

THAT SINGLE BLOW... DID ME GREAT DAMAGE...! MUST EMPLOY... POWER RING...

BUT IT ISN'T STOPPING MY FOE... ISN'T EVEN... SLOWING HIM...

MUST FLEE BEFORE...

AARRGGHH!!

THE ONE-SIDED BATTLE IS MERCIFULLY BRIEF--BUT UNMERCIFULLY SAVAGE...

AND WHEN IT IS FINALLY OVER, THE VALIANT STEL DRIFTS IN TWISTED PIECES, AND THE MONSTER CALLED KRONA SOFTLY GROWLS...

THIS IS THE FIRST ...ONLY THE FIRST!

--WHILE A MANGLED POWER RING SENDS FORTH A DESPERATE CRY FOR HELP...

AND THEN KRONA IS GONE ONCE MORE INTO THE DARKNESS--

9

THE POWER RING SIGNAL IS FAINT, HESITANT, STRUGGLING TO BE HEARD OVER AN IMAGIN-ABLE DISTANCE--

--BUT NONETHELESS, IT IS HEARD... AND ANSWERED!

STEL! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I FOUND HIM, HAL JORDAN... HERE... BARELY 500 LIGHT-YEARS FROM OA ITSELF...

I FOUND HIM... AND HE MURDERED ME...

STEL?! M'DAHNA IS HE--?

AYE--GONE TO SLEEP THE FINAL SLEEP OF THE INNOCENT!

POOR CHILD, DEATH CONFUSED HIM SO.

ANDROMEDA IS 600 LIGHT-YEARS FROM OA, NOT 500.

WAIT, M'DAHNA--WHAT IF STEL WAS RIGHT?

THAT WOULD MEAN--THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE IS SOMEHOW CONTRACTING!

HAL, DIDN'T YOU TELL ME KRONA WAS FIRST IMPRISONED FOR TRYING TO LEARN THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE?

AND ONE DOMINANT THEORY ABOUT THE COSMOS' CREATION IS THE "PRIMAL ATOM" THEORY!

INDEED--MY PEOPLE HAVE SINCE PROVED THAT THEORY TO BE TRUE!

OUR POWER-RINGED RADAR IMPULSES ARE RETURNING TO US FAR SOONER THAN THEY SHOULD!

AND NOW I FEAR YOUR THEORY IS PROVING TRUE AS WELL, HAL JORDAN!

IF THE UNIVERSE IS SHRINKING, KRONA'S SCHEME BECOMES OBVIOUS!

HE INTENDS TO BRING OUR UNIVERSE TO AN END BY UN-CREATING IT--AND WE HAVE ONLY HOURS LEFT TO STOP HIM!

10

IMAGINE IT, MY FRIENDS...

"INSTEAD OF EXPANDING, AS IT HAS SINCE ITS CREATION, THE UNIVERSE IS NOW CONTRACTING...

"PLANETS, SPACE DEBRIS--EVEN THE STARS THEMSELVES.. ARE ALL BEING DRAWN BACK TOWARD THE UNIVERSE'S CENTER...

"... WHERE THEY'LL BE PACKED INTO ONE SOLID MASS ONCE MORE, THUS RECREATING THE PRIMAL ATOM!

"THE ONLY PROBLEM IS-- THERE'S NOW A PLANET AT THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE...

"... A SHY UNASSUMING LITTLE PLANET CALLED OA!"

WELL, SINCE KRONA DEFEATED ONE OF US SO EASILY, I SUGGEST WE LOOK FOR HIM IN TEAMS!

IT SHOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT TO LOCATE HIM NOW! KRONA IS TOYING WITH US -- HE WANTS TO BE FOUND.

AND THAT, KATMA TUI, IS HIS BIGGEST MISTAKE!

BUT, LINGERING BEHIND THE OTHERS FOR A MOMENT...

FAREWELL, STEL OF GRENDA-- WITH YOUR LAST BREATH, YOU GAVE US THE CLUE THAT MAY WELL SAVE THE UNIVERSE!

YOU WERE A TRUE GREEN LANTERN, OLD FRIEND--

--AND YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN!

AND WHEN THE GRIM GREEN GLADIATOR HAS REJOINED HIS QUESTING COMRADES...

SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU, KATMA TUI?

JUST, A THOUGHT, HAL! IF KRONA TRULY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR RAPIDLY SHRINKING UNIVERSE--

WHERE DID HE GAIN THE AWESOME NECESSARY POWER?

YEAH, THAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME, TOO! BUT THE BEST WAY TO LEARN THAT IS TO SIMPLY ASK KRONA WHEN WE --EH?

THE SCANNER-SIGNAL FROM MY RING--! IT'S DETECTED SOMETHING-- SOMETHING HUGE--

--AND IT'S COMING THIS WAY!

IT'S NOT SOMETHING, FRIEND HAL-- IT'S SOME THINGS!

BROTHERS AND SISTERS, I THINK WE'VE FOUND WHAT WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR!

SEEMINGLY UNAFFECTED BY THE AIRLESS VOID OF DEEP SPACE, THEY SCRAMBLE CLOSER--

--AN APPARENTLY ENDLESS STREAM OF MISSHAPEN CREATURES WHO REEK OF AN INDESCRIBABLE EVIL...

...KRONA'S ARMY!

12

LIKE TWIN SERPENTS STRIKING AT A COMMON PREY, THE OPPOSING FORCES COLLIDE --

--AND THE RESULT IS NOTHING SHORT OF UNIVERSE-SHAKING!

CAN YOU SEE *KRONA* AMONG THESE GOONS, TOMAR-RE?

NOT A *SIGN* OF HIM, HAL-- BUT THAT MEANS *NOTHING!*

IN A MOB OF THIS *SIZE*, TRYING TO PICK OUT A SINGLE *FOE* IS LIKE TRYING TO SPOT ONE OF *US!*

I EXPECT KRONA WILL MAKE HIS FOUL PRESENCE *KNOWN* ERE LONG!

I WAS SORT OF *AFRAID* YOU'D SAY THAT!

13

AND, AS THE CONFLICT CONTINUES...

THAT'S *IT*, ARISIA-- YOU'RE DOING JUST *FINE*!

KEEP YOUR FOE ON THE *DEFENSIVE*-- DON'T GIVE HIM TIME TO *THINK*--!

GEE, I REALLY APPRECIATE THE *ADVICE*, HAL--ESPECIALLY COMING FROM *YOU*--

--BUT I THINK I'M STARTING TO GET THE *HANG* OF IT!

YEAH--I'D SAY YOU *ARE* AT THAT!

UH-OH--SORRY. DIDN'T MEAN TO BE A *WISEGUY*!

YOU AREN'T *MAD* AT ME OR ANYTHING, ARE YOU?

ON THE *CONTRARY*, LITTLE SISTER--I COULDN'T BE MORE *PLEASED*!

NOW DO YOU SEE WHY THE GUARDIANS CHOSE *YOU* TO BE A *GREEN LANTERN*?

I ONLY HOPE THE *REST* OF US FARE AS *WELL*!

BUT, UNFORTUNATELY...

MY ADVERSARY'S SKIN IS AS YELLOW AS HIS SOUL!

NOTHING MY POWER RING HURLS AGAINST HIM HAS ANY EFFECT!

INDEED NOT, LITTLE ONE--

--BUT THE POWER OF GOROKK CAN GREATLY AFFECT YOU!

MY SPINE-- THIS BEHEMOTH WILL SNAP IT LIKE A TWIG--!

CAN'T SURRENDER --HAVE TO FIGHT BACK--!

AND SO ARKKIS CHUMMUCK DOES--ALL THE PRIMAL INSTINCTS OF HIS WARRIOR RACE RISING UNBIDDEN WITHIN HIM--AS HE STRAINS AGAINST HIS FIERCE FOEMAN WITH ALL THE PHYSICAL POWER AT HIS COMMAND--

--FORCING THE YELLOW-SKINNED MONSTROSITY'S MISSHAPEN HEAD BACK --BACK--

--UNTIL A SICKENING SNAP IS HEARD--AND THE CREATURE ABRUPTLY GROWS STILL...

IT IS THE CUSTOM OF MY RACE TO HONOR A FALLEN FOE BY CONSUMING HIS REMAINS--

--BUT I SENSED NO HONOR HERE, ONLY AN OVER-WHELMING FEELING OF... DISTASTE!

15

WHILE...

YOU ARE *WEAK*, FORMLESS ONE, *SOFT*--

--AND SPYRUS IS *HUNGRY!*

NO, VILLAIN... A GREEN LANTERN AM I...

... AND THUS AM I YOUR *BETTER!*

UUNNGGHH!!

AND...

MY FOE HAS *FALLEN*, TOMAR-RE-- DO YOU NEED ANY *HELP?*

AFTER ALL, YOU *ARE* A GOOD DEAL *OLDER* THAN I.

I'D HAVE THOUGHT YOU'D HAVE *LEARNED* BY NOW, KATMA TUI--

--IN THE *GREEN LANTERN CORPS*, AGE MEANS ABSOLUTELY *NOTHING!*

YOU "*YOUNGSTERS*" OUGHT NOT TO LET YOUR *RINGS* DO ALL YOUR *FIGHTING* FOR YOU!

POINT *TAKEN*, MY FRIEND.

THEN, AT LAST, IT IS OVER--AND THE STAR-DAPPLED BATTLEFIELD IS STREWN WITH THE BODIES OF THE *FALLEN*...

...BOTH GROTESQUERIES... AND GREEN LANTERNS!

WHAT A *WASTE*... WHAT A HIDEOUS *WASTE!*

16

SO MANY MORE OF US *DEAD*--AND *WHY?* TO APPEASE SOME MADMAN'S INSATIABLE *CURIOSITY*--?

--OR IS IT SOMETHING *MORE?*

LIKE *WHAT,* HAL?

BEATS *ME,* ARISIA--SO WHY DON'T WE ASK THE APPARENT *LEADER* OF THESE UGLIES?

NO! TYLOT CANNOT *TALK*--! MUST *FLEE*--!

COME *BACK* HERE, SHORTY--WE HAVE THINGS TO *DISCUSS!*

PLEASE-- *OBLIVION* IS MINE IF TYLOT BETRAYS THE *MASTER!*

I'M NOT GOING TO *HURT* YOU, LITTLE ONE--JUST USE MY *POWER RING* TO PROBE YOUR *MIND*...

--SO I CAN FIND OUT HOW KRONA BECAME SO *POWERFUL* SINCE LAST WE FOUGHT!

"MUCH YOU ALREADY *KNOW*: WHEN YOU LAST *DEFEATED* KRONA, THE GUARDIANS REDUCED HIM TO PURE *ENERGY* ONCE MORE--AND SENT HIM BACK ON HIS INFINITE VOYAGE THROUGH THE *VOID*...

"FOR TRILLIONS OF LIGHT-YEARS, KRONA HURTLED THROUGH THE INTERSTELLAR *VASTNESS,* EVENTUALLY LEAVING THIS VERY *UNIVERSE* ITSELF BEHIND HIM--

"--AS HE PLUNGED HEADLONG THROUGH THE *FINAL BARRIER* BETWEEN DIMENSIONS...

17

"... TOWARD THE TIMELESS DOMAIN OF MY MOST MAJESTIC MASTER-- NEKRON, LORD OF THE UNLIVING!

"AND THERE, IN THAT PLACE THAT IS NEITHER HEAVEN NOR HELL, THAT PLACE WHICH LIES SOMEWHERE BETWEEN ETERNAL PEACE AND ETERNAL PUNISHMENT, AS SOULS BEYOND NUMBERING STOOD WAITING WITH INFINITE PATIENCE, MY MASTER SENSED THE COMING OF KRONA --

"--AND HE KNEW THAT IT WAS GOOD!

18

"FOR KRONA WAS AN IMMORTAL --AND YET, BY ENTERING MY MASTER'S DARK DOMAIN, HE WAS ALSO, BY DEFINITION, DEAD--

"--AND THAT WAS AN ANOMALY THE INFINITE COULD NOT ABIDE!

"THUS THE DIMENSIONAL RIFT BETWEEN MY MASTER'S DIMENSION AND YOUR OWN WAS CREATED--

"--AND NEKRON PEERED THROUGH THE RIFT, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME HE CLEARLY BEHELD THE LAND OF THE LIVING!

"LIGHT... WARMTH... LAUGHTER... ALL THESE AND MORE COULD BE HIS AT LAST--IF THE RIFT COULD ONLY BE ENLARGED...

"TO THAT END, MY MASTER RESTORED KRONA--MADE HIM MORE POWERFUL THAN BEFORE--

"--AND SENT HIM BACK TO THIS UNIVERSE AT THE HEAD OF AN ARMY, TO SLAY OTHER IMMORTALS AND THUS WIDEN THE RIFT...

"THESE OTHER IMMORTALS WERE--THE GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE!"

19

GREAT GUARDIANS! IF WHAT YOU'VE TOLD US IS TRUE... THEN YOU AND ALL THE REST OF YOUR ARMY...

...YOU'RE... DEAD!?!

IS TRUE! TYLOT AND THE REST-- WE WERE GIVEN SEMBLANCE OF LIFE TO FUNCTION IN THIS UNIVERSE--!

BUT WE ARE AMONG THE UNLIVING!

THEN IT'S HOPELESS! HOW CAN WE EVER DEFEAT KRONA WHEN HIS ALLY IS DEATH?

I DON'T KNOW, LITTLE SISTER-- BUT WE'VE GOT TO TRY!

AND YOU MUST SUCCEED, MY CHILDREN-- OR THE UNIVERSE WE HAVE SWORN TO PROTECT WILL PERISH!

WHO?!

EXALTED ONE!

BUT WHAT IS HE DOING HERE?

I HAVE COME TO WARN YOU, MY CHILDREN!

WHILE HIS UNHOLY MINIONS HAVE KEPT YOU OCCUPIED, THE EVIL KRONA NOW STRIKES AT THE VERY HEART OF THE UNIVERSE--

--AT PRECIOUS OA ITSELF!

EXALTED ONE, ARE YOU WELL? YOU SEEM TIRED... WEAK...

AYE, THE BATTLE WITH KRONA'S MASTER TAXED ME GREATLY. PERHAPS IF I REST FOR A WHILE, I WILL...

...I...

...

GUARDIAN? GUARDIAN!?

"HE'S... GONE."

AND HALF WAY ACROSS THE UNIVERSE, A DECAYING RIFT SUDDENLY GROWS WIDER!

FOR ONE TERRIBLE, TIMELESS MOMENT, THE GATHERED GREEN LANTERNS SILENTLY MOURN THEIR FALLEN MENTOR, THEN...

THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN *DO* FOR THE GUARDIAN NOW--

--EXCEPT *AVENGE* HIM!

QUICKLY, MY FRIENDS, BACK TO *OA*--

--WHERE *KRONA* IS WAITING!

THEY *LEAVE*-- WITHOUT *HARMING* TYLOT!

STRANGE, THESE GREEN LANTERNS...

THEY *WEEP* WHEN THEIR FELLOWS DIE-- *MOURN* WHEN THEIR *LEADERS* ARE SLAIN...

WHAT MANNER OF BEINGS *ARE* THEY?

AND WHILE THE UNLIVING CREATURE CALLED TYLOT PONDERS *FRUITLESSLY*...

THERE IS *ONE* GOOD ASPECT TO THIS SHRINKING UNIVERSE--

--IT ALLOWS US TO TRAVEL FROM PLACE TO PLACE MUCH *FASTER*!

AND WITH ANOTHER IMMORTAL *DEAD*--AND THE RIFT BETWEEN DIMENSIONS NOW *LARGER*-- SPEED IS DEFINITELY OF THE *ESSENCE*!

AND MOMENTS LATER, AS AN EMERALD ARMY WARPS INTO VIEW IN THE SKIES OVER OA...

THE CURSED *GREEN LANTERN CORPS*-- AT LAST!

I WONDERED HOW *LONG* IT WOULD TAKE THEM TO REALIZE I CAME *HERE*--

--BACK TO WHERE IT ALL *BEGAN*--

21

--AND WHERE ALL THE TISSUE PAPER DREAMS OF MY FELLOW OANS WILL FINALLY COME TO AN *END!*

IF YOU'RE *SMART*, KRONA-- YOU'LL *SURRENDER* TO US *NOW!*

NOW? AT THE MOMENT OF MY GREATEST *TRIUMPH?*

SURELY YOU'RE NOT *SERIOUS!*

THAT *BLAST*--! EVEN OUR PROTECTIVE *FORCE-FIELD* COULDN'T STOP IT--!

NOTHING CAN STOP ME *NOW*, LITTLE ONE!

I AM THE *EQUAL* OF YOUR GUARDIAN MASTERS-- AND *MORE!*

OH, SO MUCH *MORE!*

HAHAHAHAHA

EH? THEIR POWER RINGS HAVE TURNED THE VERY *GROUND* AROUND ME *MOLTEN*--

--*ENVELOPING* ME COMPLETELY--!

I THINK WE *DID* IT, GANG! THAT ROCKY CASING IS SEVERAL FEET *THICK!*

NO ONE *LIVING* COULD POSSIBLY *BREAK FREE* OF THAT!

22

AND THEREIN LIES YOUR *PROBLEM*, FOOLS--

SKRAKT!

UH-OH.

--FOR *I* CAN NO LONGER BE COUNTED AMONG THE *LIVING!*

ONCE BEFORE, YOU *PREVENTED* ME FROM ACHIEVING MY ULTIMATE AIM--TO LEARN THE *ORIGIN* OF THE *UNIVERSE!*

BUT *THIS* TIME I WILL NOT BE *THWARTED!*

UUNNNHH!!

THIS TIME I WILL *DESTROY* ALL OF YOU *FIRST!*

AND HE'S MORE THAN ABLE TO *DO* AS HE SAYS...

ARISIA... KATMA TUI... EVERYONE BUT ME IS SPRAWLED *UNCONSCIOUS*... OR *DEAD*...

BUT I STILL HAVE ONE *CHANCE*... ONE LAST *ACE-IN-THE-HOLE*...

23

EVEN WHILE MY FRIENDS LIE *SENSELESS*, THEIR RINGS ARE STILL PULSING WITH *POWER*--

--POWER I CAN *USE!*

"I'VE GOT TO FOCUS MY *WILL POWER* AS NEVER BEFORE...GAIN MENTAL CONTROL OVER ALL THE *POWER RINGS* IN MY VICINITY...

...AND THEN *CHANNEL* ALL THAT POWER INTO A SINGLE SHATTERING *BLAST* THAT CAN FLATTEN EVEN *KRONA!*

AARRRGGHH!!

NO! IT'S NOT *POSSIBLE--!* HE'S TORN MY POWER BLAST *APART--*

I *DID* IT! HE'S *STAGGERED--!*

STAGGERED, PERHAPS--BUT *UNBEATEN!*

BEHOLD, FOOL --AND KNOW I AM *INVINCIBLE!*

--WITH HIS *BARE HANDS!*

I COULD CRUSH YOU *NOW*, JORDAN-- BUT THAT WOULD BE TOO *MERCIFUL!*

NO, WHEN YOUR UNIVERSE *ENDS*, YOU WILL BE THE *LAST* TO DIE-- SO THAT YOU CAN *WATCH* IT ALL AND *SUFFER!*

UUNNHH!!

YOUR HOURS ARE *NUMBERED*, GREEN LANTERNS--I ADVISE YOU TO SPEND THEM *WISELY!*

USE WHAT LITTLE *POWER* YOU HAVE LEFT TO RETURN TO YOUR *NATIVE WORLDS*--SO THAT YOU MAY PERISH WITH YOUR *LOVED ONES!*

IT IS THE ONLY ACT OF *CHARITY* I WILL SHOW YOU!

IT IS THE *SMART* SOLDIER WHO ADMITS WHEN HE IS *BEATEN!*

NO!

DO NOT *ABUSE* MY GENEROSITY! GO *HOME*, GREEN LANTERNS!

NO!

GO HOME-- AND *DIE IN PEACE!*

NO!

NO. 3 JULY
50¢ ALL NEW!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

TALES of the GREEN LANTERN CORPS®

THE CORPS SOARS UNITED IN...

"TRIUMPH!"

BOLLAND

FOR YEARS BEYOND NUMBERING, THEY HAVE DEFENDED THE UNIVERSE AGAINST UNDYING **EVIL**! NOW, AT LAST, THE TALES OF THEIR **HEROISM** CAN BE TOLD...

TALES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS

THOUGH IT IS BARELY MID-AFTERNOON, THE SKY OVER THE LOS ANGELES BRANCH OF FERRIS AIRCRAFT IS A MELANCHOLY GRAY, RIPE WITH THE PROMISE OF **STORM**...

THUS, ALL ACROSS THE USUALLY BUSY TARMAC, NOTHING MOVES--

--SAVE FOR TWO SHADOWY FIGURES NOW ENTERING THE HANGAR-OFFICE OF TEST PILOT **HAL JORDAN**...

OKAY, WE'RE *HERE*!

KLIK!

NOW LET'S SEE WHAT WAS SO *IMPORTANT* THAT--

--OH.

OH, TOM-- IT'S *TRUE*! BUT WHAT DOES IT *MEAN*?

I DON'T *KNOW*, MS. FERRIS. I JUST *FOUND* IT LIKE THIS WHEN I CAME LOOKING FOR *HAL* EARLIER--

--GREEN LANTERN'S POWER BATTERY, LYING THERE ON THE FLOOR...

...DEAD...

I SENSED SOMETHING WAS *WRONG* SOMEHOW, BUT *THIS*--!

I KNOW, CAROL-- IF THE *BATTERY* IS DEAD, WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE ITS *OWNER*?

LOOK AT THAT *SKY*, TOM...SO *BLACK*... SO *FOREBODING*! IF I BELIEVED IN *OMENS*, I'D BE TREMBLING.

HAL IS IN *TROUBLE* SOMEWHERE -- I CAN *FEEL* IT-- THERE'S JUST NOTHING I CAN *DO* ABOUT IT!

NO, CAROL, THERE'S STILL *SOMETHING* WE CAN DO...

WE CAN *PRAY* FOR HIM!

AND, AS CAROL FERRIS AND THOMAS KALMAKU VAINLY ATTEMPT TO COMFORT ONE ANOTHER, IN A PRIVATE HOSPITAL MANY MILES AWAY--

--FORMER SCHOOL TEACHER GUY GARDNER SITS IN A CATATONIC STUPOR, STARING OUT IN SILENCE AT THE IMPENDING STORM...

WHILE, HALFWAY ACROSS THE CONTINENT, ANOTHER WHO HAS WORN THE JADE-AND-JET UNIFORM OF EARTH'S POWER-RINGED PROTECTOR ALSO SENSES THE ALMOST TANGIBLE DANGER IN THE AIR--

--BUT ARCHITECT JOHN STEWART ASSUMES THE GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE WILL CALL HIM IF THEY NEED HIM--

--AND, EVEN NOW, SOMETHING DEEP WITHIN HIM STILL SENSES THE CLARION CALL TO BATTLE--

--BUT, ALAS, HE CANNOT ANSWER!

HAD A CAPRICIOUS FATE BEEN MORE KIND, IT IS HE WHO WOULD HAVE WIELDED THE GREEN LANTERN--

BUT, REGRETTABLY, JOHN STEWART IS WRONG--

--AND THUS, HE MERELY SHRUGS HIS SHOULDERS, AND RETURNS TO THE WORK AT HAND.

--FOR, EVEN NOW, FAR BEYOND EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE, ONE OF THE IMMORTAL GUARDIANS STRUGGLES WITH ALL THE AWESOME POWER AT HIS COMMAND TO PROTECT THE PLANET EARTH FROM THE UNIMAGINABLE FORCES WHICH THREATEN TO DESTROY IT--

--AND THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE AS WELL!

TRIUMPH!

LEN WEIN - SCRIPTER • FROM A PLOT BY MIKE W. BARR
JOE STATON & FRANK McLAUGHLIN — ILLUSTRATORS
BEN ODA - LETTERER • ANTHONY TOLLIN - COLORIST
DICK GIORDANO - EDITOR

Featuring concepts created by MARV WOLFMAN & JACK C. HARRIS

AT THE VERY CENTER OF THE RAPIDLY-CONTRACTING CELESTIAL VORTEX THAT IS NOW THE UNIVERSE STANDS THE LEGENDARY PLANET CALLED OA...

FOR UNTOLD MILLENNIA, IT HAS BEEN THE SACRED REFUGE OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE AND THEIR DEDICATED AGENTS--

-- THE FABULOUS GREEN LANTERN CORPS!

GODDESS! WE HAVE RETURNED TOO LATE!

ONCE-SERENE OA HAS BECOME A SCENE OF CARNAGE!

WHAT TERRIBLE POWER COULD HAVE SLAIN SO MANY OF OUR COMRADES?

WOW-- WHAT HIT ME?

FEEL SO BATTERED... EVEN MY HAIR HURTS!

PRAISE THE GUARDIANS, THEY YET LIVE!

ARISIA OF GRAXOS SEEMS WELL-- WE'D BEST ATTEND TO THE OTHERS!

4

AND, AS TELEPATHIC COMMUNICATION IS ONCE MORE ESTABLISHED...

FORGIVE US FOR NOT ARRIVING HERE SOONER, TOMAR-RE!

YOUR BATTLE WITH KRONA MIGHT HAVE GONE DIFFERENTLY!

I'M JUST THANKFUL THERE WERE NO MORE CASUALTIES, K'RYSSMA!

EXCEPT PERHAPS FOR ONE...

HAL JORDAN OF EARTH WAS THE LAST TO FALL BEFORE KRONA'S POWER-- AND HE STILL HAS NOT STIRRED!

NO-- NOT HAL! OF ALL OF US-- NOT HIM!

I MEAN, IT WAS HAL WHO FIRST DEFEATED THE RENEGADE OAN CALLED KRONA--

"-- SO THE GUARDIANS COULD TRANSFORM KRONA INTO ENERGY AND SEND HIM ON AN ENDLESS TRIP ACROSS THE COSMOS!

"IS IT HAL'S FAULT THAT KRONA FINALLY BURST RIGHT OUT OF THIS DIMENSION--INTO THE REALM OF NEKRON, LORD OF THE UNLIVING!

"IT'S NEKRON WHO RECONSTRUCTED KRONA--

5

--AND SENT HIM BACK TO *KILL* ENOUGH OF THE IMMORTAL GUARDIANS TO SOMEHOW OPEN A *PASSAGE* BETWEEN NEKRON'S DIMENSION AND OUR OWN...

AND NOW, BECAUSE OF KRONA AND HIS UNLIVING *ARMY*, A BUNCH OF US *GLs* ARE *DEAD*... AND EVEN ONE OF THE *GUARDIANS*...

...AND THE WHOLE UNIVERSE IS *SHRINKING*, TURNING BACK INTO THE *PRIMAL ATOM* IT WAS CREATED FROM...

...AND THE MASTER *POWER BATTERY* HAS BEEN *DESTROYED*...

...AND OUR *RINGS* HAVE ONLY A FEW HOURS WORTH OF *POWER* LEFT...

...AND ...AND...

...AND WE'D BETTER *DO* SOMETHING ABOUT IT ALL-- REAL *FAST*!

HAL-- YOU'RE NOT *DEAD*!

NO--I JUST *FEEL* THAT WAY!

I'M JUST GLAD THE *REST* OF YOU ARE ALL *OKAY*! AFTER I SIPHONED OFF YOUR COLLECTIVE *POWER RING ENERGY* FOR A LAST DITCH SHOT AT KRONA AND *FAILED*, I WAS AFRAID--

ALL OUR POWER ... AND STILL KRONA BEAT YOU...?

I WOULD THINK BY NOW THE *ANSWER* TO THAT IS *OBVIOUS*, MY FRIENDS...

SIMPLY PUT--*WE CAN'T*!

HERE, MY FRIEND--LET ME *HELP* YOU!

THANKS, ARKKIS CHUMMUCK --BUT I CAN STAND BY *MYSELF*!

HOW CAN WE HOPE TO *DEFEAT* SUCH A MONSTER?

6

MAYBE KRONA WAS *RIGHT.*

MAYBE IT WOULD BE *BEST* FOR US TO RETURN TO OUR *HOME-WORLDS* -- TO AWAIT *ARMAGEDDON!*

AYE--MY HIVE-MOTHERS WOULD WANT ME *WITH* THEM... AT THE *END!*

SO MUCH *PAIN*... SO MUCH *SACRIFICE*... AND ALL FOR *NOTHING!*

WAIT! YOU CAN'T JUST *LEAVE*--! WE'VE GOT TO KEEP *TRYING*...

...OR *DO* WE?

CAROL...TOM... MY BROTHERS JIM AND JACK ...EVE DOREMUS...

IT WOULD BE *NICE* TO SPEND MY FINAL HOURS WITH *THEM*...

...BUT I CAN'T *DO* IT!

I JUST *CAN'T!*

THIS *RING* -- AND ALL THAT IT *SYMBOLIZES* -- HAVE BECOME A *PART* OF ME!

FOR BETTER OR WORSE, I'M A *GREEN LANTERN* NOW!

DO YOU *HEAR* ME-- I'M A *GREEN LANTERN!!*

I SWORE AN OATH TO *PROTECT* THIS WOEBEGONE UNIVERSE -- AND I WON'T TURN MY BACK ON IT *NOW!*

SO GO ON-- GO *BACK* TO YOUR HOME-WORLDS IF YOU MUST!

MEET *DEATH* ON YOUR *KNEES* IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT!

BUT *I* REMEMBER A *SAYING* WE USED TO HAVE IN THE CORPS--

--"*ONCE* A GREEN LANTERN, *ALWAYS* A GREEN LANTERN!"--

--SO I'M GOING TO *USE* WHAT LITTLE TIME MY *POWER RING* HAS LEFT--

--AND I'M GOING TO *FINISH* KRONA--

--EVEN IF I HAVE TO DO IT *ALONE!*

BUT AS THE GRIMLY DETERMINED GREEN GLADIATOR STREAKS INTO THE CHURNING VOID...

HAL -- WAIT!

WHO--?!?

TOMAR-RE... KATMA TUI... ARISIA... YOU CAME!

OF COURSE WE CAME! YOU'RE NOT ALONE, HAL!

YOU'LL NEVER BE ALONE!

"WE'RE ALL WITH YOU IN THIS, MY FRIEND--

"--RIGHT TO THE BITTER END!"

AYE, SOMETHING THOU DIDST SAY STRUCK A CHORD DEEP WITHIN US ALL, FELLOW WARRIOR!

ONE TRAGIC BATTLE DOES NOT DETERMINE A WAR!

IF PERISH WE MUST-- SO BE IT!

YEAH -- BUT WE'RE NOT GONNA DIE AFRAID!

NO MATTER THE DANGER, NO MATTER THE ODDS, THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS HAS NEVER SURRENDERED--

--AND WE DON'T INTEND TO START NOW!!

AND HAL JORDAN SMILES...

LINTIL...

YOU LOOK *WORRIED*, LITTLE SISTER!

I *AM* WORRIED, HAL! THERE'S SO MUCH *DEPENDING* ON US--!

I MEAN, I'M ONLY A *TEENAGER*. WHAT IF I *FOLD* IN THE CRUNCH?

YOU'RE ALSO A *GREEN LANTERN*, ARISIA -- SO YOU *WON'T!*

DON'T BE *UPSET*, KID -- I'M *WITH* YOU ALL THE WAY!

I... I'LL DO MY *BEST*, HAL! *REALLY* I WILL!

"LITTLE SISTER," SAYS HAL JORDAN, GRINNING ONCE MORE, "THAT'S ALL ANYONE CAN ASK!"

*PRECIOUS MINUTES OF WANING **POWER** SPIN AWAY INTO OBLIVION AS THE **GL CORPS** PRESSES ONWARD--*

*-- PAST STRAINING **GUARDIANS** WHO STRUGGLE TO PREVENT GALACTIC **DESTRUCTION**--*

FARE YOU *WELL*, MY CHILDREN... FARE *WELL!*

*-- AND, AT LAST, THROUGH A POWER-RING GENERATED **WARP** IN THE VERY FABRIC OF THE **COSMOS**...*

*FOR A MOMENT, THE WARP SEEMS TO **CONSUME** THE FLYING FIGURES LIKE SOME GREAT EMERALD MAW--*

*-- BUT THEN, ABRUPTLY, BOTH THE **WARP** AND THE QUESTING **GREEN LANTERN CORPS** ARE... GONE!*

9

WHILE, LIGHT-YEARS DISTANT, AT THE DESOLATE EDGE OF THE UNIVERSE...

PRESS *HARDER*, MY BROTHERS! THAT PATHWAY BETWEEN DIMENSIONS MUST BE *CLOSED!*

YET, BEYOND THE PORTAL, IN THE LIMBO-LIKE REALM OF THE UNLIVING ENTITY CALLED NEKRON...

THEY ARE VALIANT WARRIORS INDEED, THE GUARDIANS -- THEY DO NOT SURRENDER LIFE *EASILY!*

BUT I GROW IMPATIENT TO SAVOR THE FRUITS OF *LIFE* -- AND ONLY THE *DEATHS* OF THESE GUARDIANS WILL ALLOW THAT!

THUS I SUMMON TO ME MY CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS, THAT HE MIGHT PUT AN END TO THIS DEBACLE -- BEFORE I PUT AN END TO HIM!

AND TO THE LORD OF THE UNLIVING, THE THOUGHT IS THE *DEED!*

THERE IS A FLASH OF *DARK LIGHTNING* IN THE ROILING VOID--

--AND THEN THERE IS...

KRONA!!

10

NO, LITTLE MAN-- I AM KRONA NO LONGER!

HE WHOM YOU ALL ONCE *BANISHED* IS NOW QUITE *DEAD*--

--AND IN HIS PLACE STANDS YOUR *EXECUTIONER!!*

KRONA, YOU WERE ONCE *ONE* OF US!

THINK, MAN! DO YOU TRULY *KNOW* WHAT YOU ARE *DOING?*

DO NOT SEEK TO DISSUADE MY SERVANT, IMMORTALS!

HE KNOWS PRECISELY WHAT HE IS DOING!

INDEED! I AM PUTTING AN *END* TO YOU AND YOUR KIND, OAN--

--AND I AM *ENJOYING* IT!

AARRGGH

STRIPPED OF HIS LIFE-FORCE, THE GUARDIAN DIES...

KRONA GLOATS...

AND THE PORTAL BETWEEN THE DIMENSIONS OF THE LIVING AND THE DEAD GROWS PERCEPTIBLY WIDER...

11

AND, BEYOND THE VEIL, THE LORD OF THE UNLIVING ATTEMPTS TO SMILE...

SOON NOW...IT WILL BE SOON!

SOON THAT WHICH HAS FOREVER BEEN DENIED ME WILL AT LAST BE MINE!

AFTER COUNTLESS MILLENNIA OF DWELLING BETWEEN PLACES--

DO YOU HEAR ME, GUARDIANS--IT WILL ALL BE MINE!!

SOON, AFTER AN ETERNITY OF IMPRISONMENT, I WILL BE FREE!

AYE...

...SOON.

--OF COMMANDING THIS CELESTIAL LIMBOLAND WHERE SOULS BEYOND NUMBERING AWAIT THEIR FINAL JUDGMENT...

SOON ALL THE JOYS AND SORROWS WHICH ONLY THE LIVING MAY KNOW WILL BE MINE TO TASTE AND SHARE...

12

KRONA--*PLEASE!* WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY HOPE TO *GAIN* FROM THIS?

THAT WHICH I HAVE *ALWAYS* SOUGHT--TO WITNESS THE *BIRTH OF A UNIVERSE!*

YOUR DOMAIN IS *DYING,* OAN--RETURNING TO THE *COSMIC ALL* THAT SPAWNED IT!

BUT NEKRON AND I WILL CREATE A *NEW* UNIVERSE--AND *SHAPE* IT AS WE SEE--*EH?!?*

I WOULDN'T *BET* ON THAT, BIG BOY!

WHO--?!?

THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS?!? BUT THAT'S *IMPOSSIBLE--!*

I *DEFEATED* YOU--SENT YOU CRAWLING BACK TO YOUR HOMEWORLDS ON YOUR *KNEES!*

YOU MUST BE *MAD* TO FACE ME AGAIN!

NOT *MAD,* KRONA-- JUST GOOD AN' *ANGRY!*

FOOLS! YOU MAY THINK YOU *OUTNUMBER* ME--BUT YOU ARE *WRONG!*

ALL THE RESTLESS SPIRITS OF THE *DEAD* ARE MINE *TO COMMAND* NOW--

--AN INFINITE *ARMY* THAT WILL *DESTROY* YOU!

ATTACK, MY FAITHFUL ONES--ATTACK!!

TYLOT *WANTS* TO OBEY... BUT *CAN'T!*

THE ONES IN GREEN WERE *KIND* TO TYLOT--SHOWED TYLOT *MERCY--!*

OH, *WOE*--WHAT IS TYLOT TO *DO?*

13

LIKE A LIVING WEDGE, THE GRIM RING-SLINGERS SURGE FORWARD--KNOWING IN THEIR HEARTS THAT THIS WILL BE THEIR FINAL BATTLE--

--THAT HERE, IN THIS SWIRLING VASTNESS, AGAINST SEEMINGLY INSURMOUNTABLE ODDS, THEY MUST EITHER TRIUMPH--

--OR PERISH IN THE ATTEMPT!

AND YET, THEY DO NOT HESITATE-- DO NOT FALTER...

THEY ARE, AFTER ALL, GREEN LANTERNS --AND THEY CAN GIVE NOTHING LESS THAN THEIR ALL!

STRUGGLE ON, FOOLS-- FOR ALL THE GOOD IT WILL DO YOU!

THE INSTANT AFTER YOUR RINGS RUN OUT OF POWER, YOU ARE LOST--

--AND YOUR UNIVERSE AS WELL!

LOOK AT THEM... SO STRONG... SO VALIANT...

WOULD THAT *TYLOT* COULD HAVE BEEN *LIKE* THEM...

WOULD THAT TYLOT COULD HAVE SERVED ANOTHER--

--MASTER?

14

MASTER -- *PLEASE!* TYLOT HAS SERVED YOU *WELL!*

PERHAPS, LITTLE WORM--

--BUT YOU WOULD SERVE ME *BETTER* IN THE THICK OF *BATTLE!*

MASTER --*NO!* TYLOT *CANNOT*--!

TYLOT POSSESSES NO *LIFE*--ONLY A *SEMBLANCE* OF SAME--!

TYLOT IS KRONA'S TO *COMMAND* --AND *YET*--!

--AND *YET*--

HHUUNHH!?!

--TYLOT CAN NO LONGER *OBEY* A MADMAN'S *WISHES!*

THOUGH BLACK *OBLIVION* BE MY PUNISHMENT--

--TYLOT CANNOT ALLOW ONE SO BRAVE --SO *BEAUTIFUL* --TO BECOME THE SAME AS *I!*

15

NO MATTER WHAT MY *FATE* NOW, TYLOT WILL *FACE* IT--WITHOUT *FEAR*!

YOU KNOW, LITTLE MAN--I HONESTLY BELIEVE YOU *WILL*!

YOU!?!

PLEASE, NOBLE ONE--*SPARE* TYLOT!

YOUR CAUSE IS *MINE* NOW!

SEE? SHE IS ONLY A *SMALL* ONE... BUT TYLOT SAVED HER *HIMSELF*...

HOW *ELSE* MAY TYLOT NOW SERVE YOU, MASTER?

FIRST, YOU CAN STOP CALLING ME "*MASTER*"! WE'RE ALL *EQUALS* HERE!

IF YOU'RE TRULY ONE OF *US* NOW, LITTLE MAN--AND MY RING TELLS ME YOU *ARE*--

--YOU MAY AS WELL *LOOK* THE PART!

WHAT--?!

TYLOT'S *GARMENTS* --THEY HAVE BECOME THE SAME AS *YOURS*--!?

AND THIS *POWER RING* FROM A FALLEN COMRADE *COMPLETES* THE UNIFORM!

AS OF *NOW*, TYLOT--YOU'RE A *GREEN LANTERN*!

GO OUT AND MAKE US *PROUD*!

WHILE... OBSTINATE CREATURES, YOU CAN NEVER DEFEAT ME!

MINE IS POWER BEYOND COMPREHENSION-- DRAWN FROM THE SOULS AND SPIRITS OF ALL WHO HAVE EVER DIED!

BEHOLD MY POWER, MORTALS--AND DESPAIR!

EACH FOE I *FELL* IS REPLACED BY TWO *OTHERS!*

THIS BATTLE IS *MADDENING!*

THEN WHY NOT *SURRENDER*, TOMAR-RE -- WHILE YOU STILL *CAN!*

THAT *VOICE*--!

NO-- IT CANNOT *BE* --!

FEAR NOT, CHILD--DO YOU NOT RECOGNIZE YOUR OWN *FATHER?*

LISTEN TO NEKRON, MY SON-- WE CAN BE *TOGETHER* AGAIN IN HIS EMBRACE!

NO! YOU'RE *DEAD*--DEAD THESE MANY LONG *YEARS!*

DO NOT *TORMENT* YOURSELF, MY SON! LAY DOWN YOUR *ARMS*--

--AND *JOIN* ME!

PLEASE, FATHER-- *STOP!*

I *CANNOT* SURRENDER!

I'M A *GREEN LANTERN!*

I SWORE AN *OATH!*

AND I CANNOT *BETRAY* THAT OATH-- NO MATTER THE *COST!*

GONE... MY OWN FATHER'S *SPIRIT* UTTERLY *DESTROYED*...

OH, GOD--SOMETIMES THE *WEIGHT* OF THIS RING IS MORE THAN I CAN *BEAR!*

DO YOU SEE, MORTALS--YOUR CAUSE IS HOPELESS!

ANYONE WHO HAS EVER LIVED IS MINE NOW TO COMMAND!

OF COURSE --THAT'S OUR *ANSWER!*

17

IT'S A *LONG SHOT* -- BUT IT'S OUR *ONLY* SHOT!

HEAR ME, MY FRIENDS -- I NEED YOUR *HELP!*

FOCUS YOUR EMERALD *ENERGIES* ON ME--

--*STRENGTHEN* MY PROTECTIVE SHIELD TO ITS *LIMITS!*

AND, WITHOUT QUESTION, THEY DO!

SO MUCH *POWER* -- IT'S ALMOST *OVERWHELMING!*

BUT I'M GONNA *NEED* ALL THE POWER I CAN *GET* IF I INTEND TO *SURVIVE* THIS LITTLE ESCAPADE...

...AND RIGHT NOW THAT'S A MIGHTY BIG "*IF*"!

WELL, GANG, WISH ME--

HAL, YOU *CAN'T*--!

THERE'S NO OTHER *CHOICE*, KATMA TUI!

OUR RINGS WILL SOON *EXHAUST* THE LAST OF THEIR *24-HOUR CHARGE!*

THEN I GIVE YOU MY *PRAYERS*, MY GOOD AND PRECIOUS FRIEND--

--AND A *KISS* TO SPEED YOU ON YOUR WAY!

IT IS A GESTURE OF *YOUR* PEOPLE, NOT OF *MINE*--

--BUT PERHAPS IT WILL *WARM* YOU IN THE COLD PLACES!

PLEASE, HAL -- COME *BACK* TO US!

BELIEVE ME, ARISIA-- I'LL *TRY!*

AND, WITH THAT, HAL JORDAN HURLS HIMSELF HEADLONG THROUGH THE DIMENSIONAL RIFT--

--AND INTO THE DREAD DOMAIN OF THE LORD OF THE UNLIVING!

SO COLD HERE-- IT'S DISSOLVING MY ENERGY-SHIELD--!

AND ONCE THAT SHIELD COLLAPSES -- MY BUTT BELONGS TO NEKRON!

YOU MUST BE MAD, MORTAL -- TO CONFRONT ME HERE ALONE!

BUT I'M NOT ALONE, SKULL-FACE!

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF: EVERY-ONE WHO HAS EVER DIED IS HERE NOW...

...AND THAT INCLUDES A LOT OF LATE GREEN LANTERNS!

LOOK AT THEIR SPIRITS CAREFULLY, NEKRON -- FOR THEY ARE A BREED APART!

"--AND I'M BETTING NOT EVEN DEATH COULD EXTINGUISH THE SPARK OF THE FLAME WHICH DROVE THEM..."

NO -- IT CANNOT BE --!

THESE SPIRITS DEFY ME -- IGNORE MY COMMANDS--!

"THEY WERE BEINGS WHO DIED FOR A PURPOSE -- TO PRESERVE AN IDEAL --

19

"NOW DO YOU SEE, NEKRON?

"NOW DO YOU BELIEVE?

NOOOOOO

"NOT EVEN DEATH CAN STILL THE SOUL OF A GREEN LANTERN!

"NOT EVEN DEATH HIMSELF!"

BY ALL THAT'S HOLY-- IT *WORKED!*

NEKRON CAN NEVER REALLY BE *DEFEATED*--

--BUT MY SPIRIT FRIENDS HAVE *DISTRACTED* HIM FOR A MOMENT--

--AND A *MOMENT* SHOULD BE ALL THE GUARDIANS *NEED!*

AND, INDEED, HAL JORDAN IS *RIGHT*--

--FOR, SENSING THE SUDDEN SHIFT IN *POWER*, THE ELDERS OF OA NOW *STRIKE*--

NO-- NOT *AGAIN!* NOT WHEN I'M SO *CLOSE*--!

--QUICKLY PUTTING KRONA AND HIS NIGHTMARE ARMY UTTERLY TO **ROUT!**

20

LIKE CATTLE, KRONA AND HIS FORCES ARE HERDED BACK THROUGH THE DIMENSIONAL RIFT, SCREAMING IN FRUSTRATED RAGE ALL THE WAY--

YOU HAVE NOT HEARD THE LAST OF ME, OANS--

I SWEAR-- NOT THE LAST!

--AND THEN, BEFORE NEKRON CAN ONCE MORE INTERVENE, THE WOUND IN THE SIDE OF THE UNIVERSE IS QUICKLY HEALED...

KRONA AND HIS CRONIES ARE BACK--

--AND THE DIMENSION WARP IS GROWING SMALLER--!

SOMEHOW, MY FRIENDS AND COMRADES HAVE WON--

--BUT TOO LATE TO DO ME ANY GOOD!

IN ANOTHER FEW SECONDS, MY PROTECTIVE AURA WILL BE GONE--

--AND I'LL BE CONSUMED BY THIS DEADLY DIMENSION!

STILL, IT'S MY LIFE IN EXCHANGE FOR UNTOLD TRILLIONS OF OTHERS--

--AND, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD TRADE!

THEN, SUDDENLY, IN THE INSTANT BEFORE OBLIVION, HAL JORDAN SENSES-- RATHER THAN FEELS --TWO EPHEMERAL HANDS THRUST HIM TOWARD THE RAPIDLY-SHRINKING WARP BETWEEN DIMENSIONS...

AND HE THINKS HE HEARS A VOICE LIKE AN AUTUMN BREEZE SOFTLY WHISPER:

WELL DONE, MY BRAVE SUCCESSOR... ABIN SUR IS PROUD...

THEN THE DARKNESS OVERWHELMS HIM.

21

AND WHEN HAL JORDAN ONCE MORE STRUGGLES BACK TO A **LIGHT** HE HAD NEVER AGAIN EXPECTED TO **SEE**...

IS HE **WELL**, KATMA TUI?

HE'S **ALIVE**, EDDORE -- THAT'S **ENOUGH**!

AYE--BUT FOR **HOW LONG**?

WE ONLY HAVE A FEW MORE **SECONDS** BEFORE OUR POWER RINGS **FAIL** US--

--BUT AT LEAST WE'LL DIE **TOGETHER**--!

NO, ARISIA--THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN **TOO MUCH** DEATH.

DO NOT FORGET WE GUARDIANS ARE **LIVING POWER BATTERIES**, SUBJECT TO NO **TIME LIMIT**!

WE SHALL **PROTECT** YOU ALL UNTIL WE RETURN TO **OA**!

YOUR WORK IS **DONE**!

AND, EVEN AS THE GUARDIANS **SPEAK**, THE STARS AND PLANETS WHICH, MOMENTS BEFORE, HAD BEEN SWIRLING TOWARDS **DESTRUCTION** RETURN TO THEIR PROPER PLACES IN THE CELESTIAL **TAPESTRY**--

--AND ALL IS ONCE MORE **RIGHT** WITH THE UNIVERSE!

WELL, LOOK WHO'S STILL **WITH** US! ARISIA TELLS ME YOU'RE QUITE A **HERO**, LITTLE ONE!

TYLOT DID **GOOD**?

TYLOT DID **GREAT**!

THEN TYLOT HAS **REDEEMED** HIMSELF ...AND TYLOT'S SPIRIT **SOARS**...

THANK YOU... MY FRIENDS...

"NOW CAN TYLOT GO TO HIS ETERNAL REST...

...TRULY HAPPY..."

AND IN AN INSTANT, ONLY THE RING REMAINS.

OA, SOMETIME LATER:

THE SKIES OVER THIS LEGENDARY WORLD ARE NOW BRIGHT AGAIN, GLITTERING WITH A VAST PANOPLY OF STARS--

--AND CHARGED WITH THE ELECTRICAL ZEST OF CELEBRATION!

I GIVE YOU A TOAST, MY CHILDREN.

TO YOUR BRAVE BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO PERISHED THAT OUR UNIVERSE MIGHT SURVIVE!

IN OUR MINDS AND HEARTS, THEY SHALL LIVE FOREVER!

AND SO IT GOES, A TIME OF REJOICING AND REFLECTION AND RENEWAL...

AND WHEN, AT LAST, AS SUCH THINGS MUST, THE CELEBRATION ENDS...

YOU SUMMONED ME, GUARDIANS--?

AYE, HAL JORDAN--THERE IS SOMETHING OF GRAVE IMPORTANCE WE WISH TO DISCUSS WITH YOU!

SINCE THE DAY YOU FIRST ACCEPTED ABIN SUR'S POWER RING, YOU HAVE DONE GREAT HONOR TO THE NAME GREEN LANTERN--

--AND WE ARE WELL PLEASED!

NOW IT IS WE WHO WISH TO HONOR YOU!

BEHOLD THE *CRIMSON MANTLE OF COMMAND* -- THE SYMBOL OF HE WHO WOULD BECOME OUR PROUD CORPS' *LEADER!*

FROM THIS MOMENT FORTH, HAL JORDAN-- IT IS *YOURS!*

M-M-MINE--?

EXALTED ONES, I AM *STUNNED*--AND *FLATTERED* BEYOND WORDS--

--BUT I'M NOTHING *SPECIAL*-- NO DIFFERENT THAN ANY *OTHER* RING-SLINGER!

I'VE ONLY DONE WHAT *ANY* GL WOULD HAVE DONE, GIVEN THE *CHANCE!*

SO I'M AFRAID I HAVE TO *DECLINE* YOUR GENEROUS OFFER, GUARDIANS!

WHEN IT COMES RIGHT DOWN TO IT-- I GUESS I'M JUST *ONE OF THE GANG!*

INDEED YOU *ARE,* HAL JORDAN!

AND WE COULDN'T BE MORE *PROUD!*

GLAD WE HAVEN'T *LOST* YOU, BIG BROTHER!

AYE-- SO SAY WE *ALL!*

THE CELEBRATION IS *OVER*...THE CHOICE HAS BEEN *MADE*...AND THE UNIVERSE IS *WAITING* FOR ITS EMERALD *PROTECTORS!*

THUS, TO THE RESTORED *CENTRAL BATTERY* WITH YOU ALL--THAT YOU MAY RECHARGE YOUR *POWER RINGS!*

TO THE *BATTERY OF POWER*--AND THE *RITUAL!*

24

WITHOUT HESITATION, THE ASSEMBLED GREEN LANTERN CORPS TOUCH THEIR EMERALD RINGS TO THE GIANT BATTERY TO DRAW STRENGTH FOR ANOTHER DAY--

AS COUNTLESS VOICES SPEAK AS ONE, IN TRIBUTE TO ONE OF THEIR OWN...

IN BRIGHTEST DAY, IN BLACKEST NIGHT, NO EVIL SHALL ESCAPE OUR SIGHT! LET THOSE WHO WORSHIP EVIL'S MIGHT, BEWARE OUR POWER-- GREEN LANTERN'S LIGHT!

HONORED GREETINGS, HAL JORDAN OF EARTH!

HONORED GREETINGS TO THE NOBLEST OF US ALL!

AND HAL JORDAN CRIES, OPENLY AND WITHOUT SHAME--

--UNTIL A SOFT, FAMILIAR VOICE DISTRACTS HIM...

Y'KNOW, HAL, I WAS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT BEING A GREEN LANTERN--

OH?

--BUT AFTER TODAY, I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING I'D RATHER BE!

WELCOME TO THE CLUB, LITTLE SISTER--

WELCOME TO THE CLUB!!

WOW. OH WOW!

AND SO IT GOES...

25

ON EVERY WORLD WHERE CIVILIZATION FLOURISHES THERE ARE BOUND TO BE DAY-TO-DAY DIFFICULTIES THAT TECHNOLOGY CAN SPAWN. THE PLANET H'LVEN IS NO EXCEPTION...

PRAISED BE THE GUARDIANS... GOT IT!

FORTUNATELY, IT IS THE HOME OF CH'P, MEMBER OF THE...

GREEN LANTERN CORPS™

PAUL KUPPERBERG writer . DON NEWTON penciller . DAN ADKINS inker . COSTANZA letterer . TONY TOLLIN colorist . DAVE MANAK editor

ANOTHER MOMENT AND THE HOVERCRAFT WOULD'VE KILLED *DOZENS* IN THE CRASH! BUT THE SHIP'S *CREW* IS STILL IN DANGER--

--UNTIL I *EXTINGUISH* THE FLAMES!

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM, GENTLEMEN! THE SITUATION IS *WELL* IN HAND!

BLESS THE TREE SPIRIT! WE THOUGHT WE WERE *GONERS* WHEN THE ENGINE *FLAMED OUT*, GREEN LANTERN!

GLAD TO BE OF HELP, PILOT!

I'M JUST HAPPY I... *HUH?!*

GREEN LANTERN OF H'LVEN! YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUIRED!

IT IS A VOICE ONLY THIS EMERALD GLADIATOR CAN HEAR--

--AND THE URGENCY OF ITS TONE IS ENOUGH TO CONVINCE CH'P THAT DELAY WOULD BE COSTLY!

FOR SUCH A SUMMONS IS SELDOM LESS THAN GRAVE WHEN ISSUED BY AN IMMORTAL FROM OA...

MY RING, AS ALWAYS, IS *YOURS* TO COMMAND, VENERATED *GUARDIAN!*

AS WELL WE KNOW, BRAVE CH'P.

2

THUS WE HAVE CALLED ON YOU TO PREVENT A CATASTROPHE WHICH IS TO BEFALL A WORLD UNDER YOUR PROTECTION.

BUT I HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY WORD THAT...

WE HAVE ONLY JUST DEDUCED THE PLANET'S PERIL, GREEN LANTERN, AND NOT MUCH TIME *REMAINS* TO SAVE FROM *EXTINCTION*--

--THE PEOPLE OF *BERRITH!*

BERRITH!

THE WORD ESCAPES LIKE AN OATH FROM HIS LIPS--

--AND THE HATRED BEHIND THAT OATH IS PALPABLE EVEN HERE, IN THE DARK, COLD VOID OF SPACE...

THE BERRITH ARE *SWORN ENEMIES* OF MY PEOPLE, GUARDIAN! TO AID THEM WOULD BE *TREASON* TO...

ENOUGH, CH'P!

THE DAY YOU DONNED THE *POWER RING* OF THE GREEN LANTERN YOU *PLEDGED* YOUR LOYALTIES TO *ALL* THE COSMOS--

--TO DEFEND AND PROTECT *ALL* WHO ARE IN NEED OF YOUR POWER!

F-FORGIVE ME, GUARDIAN.

IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE, FOR *EONS* THE BERRITH WAGED WAR ON H'LVEN-- UNTIL THE GUARDIANS OF OA *QUARANTINED* THEIR MALIGNANT INFLUENCE ON THEIR HOMEWORLD!

NOW, THE TASK BEFORE YOU WILL BE ARDUOUS-- YOU MUST *CHARGE* YOUR POWER RING!

CH'P OF H'LVEN SPEAKS THE SOLEMN VOW HE SHARES WITH MANY OF HIS COMRADES--

IN BRIGHTEST DAY, IN DARKEST NIGHT, NO EVIL SHALL ESCAPE MY SIGHT. LET THOSE WHO WORSHIP EVIL'S MIGHT, BEWARE MY POWER, GREEN LANTERN'S LIGHT!

3

--AND THEN HE IS GONE, MOVING AT THE SPEED OF THOUGHT TOWARDS HIS DESTINATION...

...BERRITH! HOW OFTEN HAVE I HEARD THE STORIES OF THEIR MALEVOLENCE... THEIR LOVE OF CRUELTY--

"--AND THEIR NEAR ACT OF GENOCIDE AGAINST MY RACE! THE BERRITH PROBABLY WOULD HAVE DESTROYED H'LVEN IN THEIR BLOOD-LUST..."

"PERHAPS... EXCEPT FOR THE INTERVENTION OF THE GUARDIANS! THEY REPELLED THE INVADERS AND TRAPPED THEM ON THEIR HOME PLANET UNTIL THE RACE RESIGNS FROM EVIL."

BUT THAT WAS 2000 SUN-CYCLES AGO-- AND THE BERRITH HAVE GOTTEN *WORSE*, IF ANYTHING! I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY THE H'LVEN *HATE* THEM--

--WE'D NEVER BEFORE FACED SUCH *UNRELENTING* EVIL!

BUT NOW BERRITH'S SUN HAS GROWN *UNSTABLE* AND IS THREATENING THE PLANET... IT'S GOT TO BE *EVACUATED* BEFORE ANOTHER *3 CYCLES* OR THE PEOPLE WILL *DIE!*

AND WITH *SPACE TECHNOLOGY* *DENIED* THE BERRITH SINCE THEIR CONFINEMENT, THAT'S GOING TO BE NO *MEAN FEAT!*

4

CHEET!

BY THE SPIRITS... I *FORGOT* ABOUT THE *DEFENSIVE SATELLITES* THE GUARDIANS PLACED AROUND BERRITH TO PROTECT THEM FROM THEIR *MANY ENEMIES!*

NO REAL HARM DONE... *EXCEPT* TO THE SATELLITE!

AND NOW THAT IT'S *ALERTED* THE BERRITH TO MY APPROACH--

--I MIGHT AS WELL *INTRODUCE* MYSELF TO MY *HOSTS!*

IT IS A PLACE *WORSE* THAN ANY *CIVILIZED* BEING COULD *IMAGINE*--A PLACE WHERE THICK, ACRID FUMES FOUL THE AIR--

--AND THE EVIL LAYS AS HEAVILY ON ITS PEOPLE AS DOES THE *FILTH* ON ITS PITTED, BATTLE-SCARRED SURFACE...

MY RING SAYS THE SATELLITE'S *WARNING* WAS BEAMED HERE, AND *HERE* IS UNDOUBTEDLY--

--WHERE I CAN FIND SOMEONE IN CHARGE!

I BRING YOU GREETINGS OF *PEACE* FROM THE *GUARDIANS OF OA*, BEING OF BERRITH!

DON'T TELL ME *YOU* WERE THE *BLIP* OUR SATELLITE PICKED UP, LITTLE ONE...?

I AM.

WELL, BLESS MY BUTTONS-- A *FLYING* H'LVEN... IN A *MASK*, YET!

HEY-- KRONK... BLASH... C'MERE!

LOOKIT... DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE, BLASH?

YEAH--IT LOOKS LIKE CHOK'S CAUGHT HIMSELF A NICE ONE!

I'LL BE WAXED, BOYS... THIS LITTLE *FURBALL* LOOKS TO BE THE *GENUINE THING!*

UH-HUH, A REAL LIVE--

--SOON TO BE *DEAD* BLOODY H'LVN SCUM!

I CAME ON A MISSION OF *PEACE*--

--BUT IF *THIS* IS THE WAY YOU *RESPOND*--

THUNK!

HEY!

--ABOUT *SMASHING* SOME BERRITH HEADS!

--THEN I HAVE NO COMPUNC-TION--

...BY THE DWELLER OF THE PIT...

NOW... IF WE COULD *TALK* FOR A MOMENT, I'LL TELL YOU *HOW* YOU'RE GOING TO BE EVACUATED FROM... *HUH?!*

FRENG! SOMEONE'S SOUNDED THE *ALARM!*

YEAH, BUT NOT FOR *YOU*, PIP-SQUEAK--

--FOR *THEM*... INVADERS WHO GOT PAST THE DEFENSE SATELLITES!

GREAT GUARDIANS!

6

AND WITHOUT A SPACE FLEET OF THEIR OWN, THE BERRITH WILL BE *SLAUGHTERED*... UNLESS I STOP THIS!

STAND OFF-- THIS WORLD IS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE GUARDIANS!

ZZZZTT!

CHEEET!

THIS IS A SHIP DESIGNED TO DESTROY WORLDS-- NOT ONE TO HALT AT THE COMMAND ON A LONE BEING...

...NOT EVEN ONE WEARING THE GARB OF A GREEN LANTERN...

THAT SATELLITE I DISABLED LEFT A *GAP* IN BERRITH'S SHIELDS--A FLEET OF ENEMY STAR-CRUISERS MUST HAVE BEEN LYING IN *WAIT* FOR AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS!

ALTHOUGH THAT IS A MISTAKE THE INVADERS VERY QUICKLY COME TO REGRET..

SCKREEET!

7

BY THE BEARD OF JARGESS...!

H-HE DESTROYED THEM WITH A... A *SINGLE* BLOW!

THIS H'LVEN IS *INCREDIBLE!* HE COULD WIPE US OUT WITHOUT EVEN WORKING UP A *SWEAT!*

B-BUT HE'S SO BLOODY... *LITTLE!*

QUIET, YOU IMBECILES!

NOW THEN... AS I WAS SAYING...

YES... OH *YES, GOOD* BEING OF H'LVEN! IN... ER, VIEW OF YOUR... UHH, *MAGNANIMOUS* GESTURE IN PULLING OUR FAT OUT OF THE FIRE... WE, ER...

WE'LL DO *WHATEVER* YOU *WANT!!*

BUT YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT *IS!*

WELL ACTUALLY... IT DOESN'T MATTER... REALLY...

IN THAT CASE...

THE TERMS OF THE GUARDIANS' PLANS ARE RELATED-- AND HASTILY ACCEPTED--

--AND, WITHIN MERE DAYS, THE GIFT OF FLIGHT IS RETURNED TO, AND A SOLEMN OATH EXTRACTED FROM, THE PEOPLE OF BERRITH...

THEY'LL HAVE THEIR SHIPS TO SAVE THEM FROM EXTINCTION... AND THEY KNOW IF THEY EVER TURN THOSE SHIPS TOWARDS *WAR,* THEY WILL HAVE TO CONTEND WITH THE *GREEN LANTERN CORPS!*

CH'ND

GREEN LANTERN CORPS

QUARZZ TERANH KNOWS JOY.

HE'S FLOWN THE CURRENTS OF SPACE FOR SO LONG...HE KNOWS ITS EVERY EBB AND FLOW--CAN **FEEL** THE VERY **RHYTHMS** OF SPACE BECOMING **ONE** WITH HIS OWN.

HE HAS BEEN ONE OF THE **GREEN LANTERN CORPS** FOR MOST OF HIS 137 YEARS. QUARZZ TERANH KNOWS NOTHING ELSE...

E'SPRIT DE CORPS!

PAUL KUPPERBERG — WRITER
CARMINE INFANTINO — INKER & PENCILLER
SHELLY LEFERMAN — LETTERER
ANTHONY TOLLIN — COLORIST
DAVE MANAK — EDITOR

QUARZZ TERANH WOULD HAVE IT NO OTHER WAY!

BY THE **GUARDIANS**--I WILL NEVER CEASE TO **MARVEL** AT THE UNBRIDLED **BEAUTY** OF SPACE... THE ENDLESS VARIETY OF **WONDERS.**

YET IT HOLDS ITS **DANGERS** AS WELL... FOR THOSE WHO WILL NOT **RESPECT** ITS MAJESTRY!

BUT THEN, ARE NOT THOSE VERY DANGERS THE **REASON** I HAVE TO **BE**...?

FOR WHAT NEED IS THERE OF A **GREEN LANTERN** IN A UNIVERSE **FREE** OF STRIFE?

IT IS A PARADOX HE HAS PONDERED **OFTEN** IN HIS TIMES--

--BUT IN TRUTH, HE KNOWS THERE TO BE **NO** ANSWER THE UNIVERSE SIMPLY **IS**--

--JUST AS IS **QUARZZ TERANH'S** ROLE IN IT... SET...**IMMUTABLE**--

--SOMETHING WHICH NO AMOUNT OF **QUESTIONING** CAN EXPLAIN...OR CHANGE...

YET WHO COULD WISH TO?

HOW PEACEFUL IS THIS SECTOR! PERHAPS IT IS AS WELL MANKIND HAS YET TO COME THIS FAR IN...HUH?!

RINGS OF ILZARF! THAT EMERALD BEACON--

--THE GUARDIANS COME!

COME THEY DO--A BLAZING BOLT OF EMERALD BRILLIANCE LIGHTING THE COLD DARK OF SPACE...

...A LIGHT FAIRLY AS OLD AS SPACE ITSELF! THEY ARE GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE--THE POWER BEHIND THE BATTERY OF POWER--

--IMMORTAL INHABITANTS OF OA WHO THOSE FEARLESS WIELDERS OF THE RINGS CALL MASTER!

I AM HONORED BY YOUR PRESENCE, VENERATED GUARDIANS!

GREETINGS, BRAVE QUARZZ TERANH.

WOULD THAT MY BROTHERS AND I COULD COME TO YOU WITH SUCH PLEASURE, GREEN LANTERN OF TRLAK--

--BUT GRAVE DANGER FACES YOUR SECTOR.

YET WE DO NOT KNOW HOW WE MAY SEND YOU TO PREVENT IT!

WE HAVE COME TO SEEK... YOUR COUNCIL, QUARZZ.

HE IS STUNNED--AND THEN SOMETHING WITHIN HIM GOES COLD...FOR SUCH WORDS FROM A GUARDIAN CAN MEAN NOTHING BUT THE DARKEST OF HAPPENINGS!

AND EVEN THIS BEING WHO KNOWS NO FEAR CAN FEEL AT LEAST... CHILLED!

B-BUT HOW MAY **I** ADVISE **YOU,** GREAT GUARDIANS!? I AM BUT A...

...A **GREEN LANTERN,** QUARZZ TERANH--A BRAVE AND **WISE** BEING, ELSE YOU WOULD NOT **WEAR** THE RING!

AND THAT YOU **DO** IS WHY WE SOUGHT YOU--FOR YOURS IS THE POWER THAT MAY **SAVE** THIS SECTOR--

--OR SEE ITS LAST DAYS!

WE HAVE DISCOVERED A **BLACK HOLE** IN THE CENTER OF YOUR SECTOR ...HOURLY IT **GROWS** AND SOON IT MAY SWALLOW **ALL** THAT LIVES!

IT MUST BE **SEALED,** GREEN LANTERN...

--**YOU** MUST DO THIS!

AT WORST, THIS TASK MAY MEAN YOUR LIFE...AND EVEN SHOULD YOU **SURVIVE**--

--THERE IS LITTLE HOPE YOU WILL DO SO **ABLE** TO **CONTINUE** AS A GREEN LANTERN!

BY THE STARS... NO! I **BEG** YOU, HONORED ONES...! DEATH HOLDS NO FEAR FOR ME...I ACCEPT IT AS I DO LIFE! BUT THE CORPS--

--THE CORPS **IS** LIFE, HONORED GUARDIAN!

YOUR LOYALTY TOUCHES US, FAITHFUL QUARZZ. YET, IN TRUTH, ***WHAT CHOICE*** HAVE WE?

NO CHOICE. THIS QUARZZ TERANH KNOWS, FOR THE REASON IS HIS REASON FOR LIVING...

I AM A GREEN LANTERN.

AYE...ONE WITHOUT ***PEER!***

COME FORWARD, GREEN LANTERN. YOUR TASK SHALL REQUIRE ALL YOUR MIGHT--***CHARGE*** YOUR RING FROM ***US!***

*HE HEARD ONCE AN **OATH** SPOKEN BY A FELLOW MEMBER OF THE CORPS... THE WORDS HAD MOVED HIM THEN--*

*THEY WOULD SERVE AS A FITTING **EPITAH** NOW.*

IN BRIGHTEST DAY, IN BLACKEST NIGHT, NO EVIL SHALL ESCAPE MY SIGHT, LET THOSE WHO WORSHIPS EVIL'S MIGHT, BEWARE MY POWER, GREEN LANTERN'S LIGHT!

*AND SOMEHOW, IT ALL MEANS SO MUCH **MORE**...*

EVEN IN THE THROES OF ***VIOLENCE***, THIS IS STILL A UNIVERSE OF SUCH ***SPLENDOR!***

I SHALL ***MISS*** IT!

*AND THEN, THE TIME FOR SUCH THOUGHTS IS **OVER**, FOR IN THE **NEXT** INSTANT...*

BY THE STARS... SPACE CRUISERS BEING DRAWN TOWARDS THE BLACK HOLE!

THE BLACK HOLE MUST BE ***ENORMOUS***...IT IS STILL ***LIGHT YEARS DISTANT.*** YET ITS GRAVITATIONAL PULL IS ***INCREDIBLE!***

PERHAPS I CAN YET SAVE THE ***INHABITANTS*** OF THOSE TRAPPED ***SPACE CRUISERS*** BEFORE I ATTEMPT TO ***SEAL*** THE CAUSE OF THIS INSANITY!

NO! THE FORCES ARE ***TOO POWERFUL!*** THEY REND MY EMERALD ENERGIES LIKE ***PAPER!***

IF I CAN-NOT ***RETRIEVE*** THOSE SHIPS FROM THE BLACK HOLE'S ***GRIP--***

--I CAN AT LEAST SEE THEY HAVE NOTHING TO ***FEAR*** AT JOURNEY'S ***END!***

*WITH A SURGE OF **WILL** BORN OF DESPERATION--*

--THE GREEN LANTERN OF TRLAK SPEEDS AHEAD, HIS OWN NATURAL MOMENTUM AUGMENTED WITH EVERY PASSING MILISECOND BY THE AWESOME PULL--

*--OF A **BLACK HOLE** IN SPACE!*

*IN ALL HIS TRAVELS, QUARZZ HAS NEVER VIEWED A SIGHT SUCH AS THIS--WITH POWER...A **SPLENDOR** TO **DWARF** ALL ELSE!*

*IT IS A ONCE A THING OF **BEAUTY**... AND HIS **DEATH!***

*THE **IRONIES** ARE NOT **LOST** ON QUARZZ TERANH.*

THEY JUST DO NOT MUCH MATTER.

6

GREEN LANTERN KNOWS WHAT **MUST** BE DONE--

--HE DOES **NOT** KNOW IF EVEN THE POWER OF HIS RING CAN DO IT.

BUT HE WILL TRY.

AS HE LIVES--

--AS HE IS GREEN LANTERN--

--HE WILL TRY!

AND AS HE IS ALL THESE THINGS... **HE SUCCEEDS!**

7

THE UNIVERSE HAS A WAY OF **HEALING**, EVEN AFTER A **WOUND** SUCH AS THE BLACK HOLE.

THUS, IT IS AS IF THE HOLE WERE **NEVER** THERE... AS IF THE COSMOS HAD NOT FAIRLY **SWALLOWED** ITSELF MERE **HOURS** AGO.

QUARZZ IS **NOT** SO BLESSED. ONLY HIS RING'S **PROTECTIVE AURA** HAS STAYED DEATH'S HAND THUS FAR...

...G-GUARDIANS ...I H-HURT...!

...YET EVEN IT CAN-NOT WORK **MIRACLES.**

IT S-SHALL SOON...BE OVER...

GHR'LL... LIES QUARZZ **THERE!**

AYE, XYLPTH-- HIS **AURA** STILL **GLOWS!**

QUARZZ ...**BROTHER!**

I-I YET... L-LIVE, F-FRIEND... GHR'LL...!

LIVE YET **STILL,** BROTHER! **GUARDIANS** HEAL PERHAPS...

NO, GOOD, XYLPTH! L-LEAVE ME... **HERE...** WHERE I-I LIE...

I-I...AM AMONG ...T-THE S-STARS, MY FRIENDS...

...L-LEAVE... M-M...

THEY LEAVE QUARZZ TERANH THERE--AMONG THE STARS HE SO LOVED. HE WAS A **GREEN LANTERN.**

...HE WOULD HAVE IT NO OTHER WAY...

8

THE NATIVES OF THIS PLANET CALL IT GLIRELL.

THE REST OF THE GALAXY CALLS IT HEAVEN!

FOR IF EVER THERE WAS SUCH A PLACE, THIS GENTLE, PEACE-LOVING WORLD WOULD SURELY BE IT.

PERHAPS IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS THAT THE PEOPLE OF GLIRELL, ABOVE ALL OTHERS ACROSS THE COSMOS ARE AWARE--

AARRRGGGHHH

--THAT OFTEN, THERE CAN BE TROUBLE IN PARADISE!

GREEN LANTERN CORPS™

STAY AWAY FROM ME, FOOLS! ARRGGHH!

PRAISED BE THE FATHER... NO! HE MUST NOT!

"PARADISE WORLD!"

PAUL KUPPERBERG, WRITER / CARMINE INFANTINO ARTIST / MILT SNAPINN, LETTERER / TONY TOLLIN, COLORIST / DAVE MANAK, EDITOR

STOP, CITIZEN! WHAT YOU WOULD DO IS *ANATHEMA* TO ALL WE HOLD *SACRED!*

I WILL SMASH *YOU* AS I SMASH THIS WORTH-LESS *INSECT*, GREEN LANTERN... HAUH?!

BOFF!

BAH! I KNOW OF YOUR MUCH VAUNTED *RING OF POWER*, WOMAN. IT SHALL NOT *SAVE* YOU FROM MY *WRATH!*

HE MUST BE *INSANE* ELSE HE'D NEVER DARE SUCH DEEDS AGAINST HIS FELLOWS. SUCH DREADFUL ILL-NESS MUST BE DEALT WITH--

--GENTLY!

GARGGHH! RELEASE ME,

RELEASE ME, I SAY!!

GREAT GUARDIANS! I HAVE UNDERESTIMATED THE POWER OF HIS *MADNESS...!*

YOUR LOUDLY SUNG PRAISES HAVE DONE YOU AN *INJUSTICE*, WOMAN--

--FOR I SEE YOU CAN DIE LIKE ANY OTHER *MORTAL!*

*DIE... PERHAPS. BUT FOR JERYLL OF GLIRELL, DEATH WILL NOT COME **EASILY**--*

2

--NOR WITHOUT RETRIBUTION FROM A HIGHER, MORE POWERFUL SOURCE!

IT IS WITHOUT CONSCIOUS THOUGHT THAT THE POWER RING GRANTED THIS VALIANT WOMAN REACTS TO THE SUDDEN ATTACK--

--RENDERING THE ATTACKER IMPOTENT WITH A SINGLE, VIOLENT BLOW.

UGH!

WHOMP!

UH--HAD NOT MY *RING* *PROTECTED* ME FROM ANY *TRUE* HARM, SUCH A BLOW SURELY *WOULD* HAVE KILLED ME!

BUT... THE CITIZEN? HAS HE FLED WHILE...

NO, JERYLL-- HE WAS *FELLED* BY... BY *YOUR* HAND!

MY...? BUT THAT CANNOT BE *SO*, CITIZEN! *NEVER* WOULD I *WILLFULLY* STRIKE DOWN ANOTHER...

OF YOUR MIND I KNOW *LITTLE*, BUT OF YOUR *RING* I HAVE HEARD *MUCH!*

IS IT NOT YOUR *WILL* THAT MAKES THE RING'S WONDER A *REALITY?* THEN HOW CAN YOU *DENY* THAT IT WAS *YOUR WILL*--

--WHICH *CREATED* THIS VIOLENCE?

I... I...

...CANNOT...

WHAT SHE HAS DONE IS A CRIME--A CRIME AGAINST ONE OF HER OWN--

--AND AGAINST THE VERY LAWS OF NATURE!

FOR AS LONG AS THE FOLK OF GLIRELL CAN RECALL, NO CITIZEN HAS RAISED HIS HAND AGAINST ANOTHER IN VIOLENCE.

THAT SHE WAS VICIOUSLY ATTACKED DOESN'T MATTER. THAT SHE STRUCK BACK--EVEN SUBCONSCIOUSLY--DISTURBS HER.

DEEPLY.

TYWENE...?

WH-WHAT IS *WRONG*, MY LOVE-MATE...?

WORD SPREADS *SWIFTLY*, JERYLL.

OH.

SURELY YOU, ABOVE ALL OTHERS, KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WAS AN *ACCIDENT*, TYWENE! I CANNOT *IMAGINE* SUCH AN ACT AGAINST...

NO? THEN YOUR POWER RING ACTED ON ITS OWN?

YOU KNOW IT CANNOT, MY LOVE.

AYE... AND THAT IS WHAT IS SO UNSETTLING! I THOUGHT I KNEW YOU, JERYLL--

--AND THOUGH I COULD ALWAYS SENSE YOU WERE ...*DIFFERENT* THAN THE REST OF US, I NEVER BELIEVED YOU WERE *CAPABLE* OF...THIS.

4

ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN, CHERISHED MATE!

EXPLAIN?

NO WORDS YOU SPEAK COULD SOOTHE WHAT I FEEL, JERYLL ...AT LEAST NOT NOW! LATER--

--PERHAPS...

HOW LONG SHE HAS SAT, UNMOVING, HER VERY BEING NUMB WITH SHOCK, JERYLL KNOWS NOT.

NOR CAN SHE BRING HERSELF TO CARE.

ALL SHE CAN THINK IS, "THIS RING! THIS ACCURSED RING!" IT HAD CHANGED HER LIFE FROM THE MOMENT IT WAS PLACED ON HER FINGER--

SHE HAD WELCOMED IT AT FIRST, SECRETLY REVELING IN ITS AWESOME POWER ...PROUD OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR LIFE IT BROUGHT WITH IT. BUT NOW--

--BY THE FATHER, NOW SHE PRAYS IT HAD NEVER COME TO HER...

DAMN THEM! SOB

5

SUDDENLY...

WE...WE ASK YOUR PARDON, JERYLL.

WHO...?

THE *HIGH COUNCIL* OF GLIRELL HAS SENT US TO BRING YOU TO THEM, GREEN LANTERN

THE COUNCIL... OF COURSE.

I HAVE BEEN *EXPECTING* THEIR SUMMONS, CITIZENS.

WE SHOULD NOT KEEP THEM WAITING.

THE WHOLE OF THE CITY HAS TURNED OUT THIS NIGHT TO SEE THEIR HEROINE -- A WOMAN THEY HAVE LONG ADMIRED AND NOW FEAR.

BUT THEY SHALL NOT PASS JUDGEMENT UPON HER THIS NIGHT --

--FOR THAT IS A RIGHT RESERVED ONLY FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE COUNCIL OF GLIRELL...

STAND BEFORE US, GREEN LANTERN! STAND AND BE *JUDGED!*

I AM *READY*, HONORED COUNCIL!

SINCE BEFORE THE DAYS OF RECORDED TIME, WE OF THIS WORLD HAVE LIVED IN ABSOLUTE *PEACE!*

FOR IT WAS THEN THAT OUR PLANET WAS EVER AT WAR--KILLING, RAVAGING, RAPING THE VERY LAND ITSELF IN THE NAME OF *BATTLE!*

6

WERE IT NOT FOR THE COMING OF THE *FATHER*, GLIRELL WOULD THIS DAY BE A *BARREN* WORLD, *DESTROYED* BY WAR.

BUT IT WAS *HE* WHO TAUGHT US THAT CONTINUED LIFE EXISTS ONLY IN *PEACE*--A PEACE *YOU* HAVE THIS DAY *BREACHED*, JERYLL!

YET WE REALIZE YOU DIFFER FROM THE NORM, JERYLL. THAT IS WHY WE'VE DECIDED THAT YOU SHALL BE *FOR-GIVEN* FOR YOUR TRANS-GRESSION -- *THIS* TIME!

BUT IT MUST *NEVER* HAPPEN AGAIN. FOR SHOULD YOU *REPEAT* THIS HEINOUS ACT, *WE* WILL BE *FORCED* TO TAKE ACTION --

--AND *BANISH* YOU FOR *ALL TIME* FROM GLIRELL.

THE WORDS ARE LIKE A *PHYSICAL BLOW* TO HER FOR THOUGH SHE *EXPECTED* TO HEAR THEM, THE *REALITY* IS EVEN WORSE THAN THE *IMAGINING*.

BUT THERE IS NO TIME TO PONDER THE CON-SEQUENCES OF THE WORDS, FOR IN THE NEXT MOMENT...

BAHOOOOM!

BY THE FATHER'S STAFF!

DRELITE SLAVER SHIPS... HERE...?!

BUT WE HAVE *NEGOTIATED* A TREATY WITH...!

DRELITE TREATIES LAST *ONLY* AS LONG AS THERE ARE UNTAPPED WORLDS TO *DESTROY!*

OBVIOUSLY THE *HUNTING* HAS BEEN *POOR*, SO *OUR* TURN HAS COME. I MUST *STOP* THEM BEFORE...

DO YOU *FORGET* OUR DECREE SO *SOON*, JERYLL?

7

B-BUT... AGAINST *THEM*, HONORED ONE!?

AGAINST *ALL*, JERYLL. STOP THEM IF YOU *CAN*... BUT STOP THEM WITH THE REASON OF YOUR *WORDS*, WITH PEACE--

--AND ABOVE ALL ELSE, WITH *LOVE*.

THE COUNCIL HAS DWELT TOO LONG IN THE SHELTER OF GLIRELL. THEY HAVE NOT RIDDEN THE COSMIC WINDS AS HAVE *I*--

--ELSE THEY WOULD KNOW WE DO NOT LIVE IN AN *IDEAL* UNIVERSE WHERE THEIR WORDS ARE ALL THAT ARE NEEDED TO *RIGHT* INJUSTICE.

BUT I SHALL *HEED* THEIR DECREE AND TRY TO SAVE GLIRELL FROM THE *DRELITES* WITH *REASON*--

--AND PRAY, FATHER I MAY FIND THE *STRENGTH!*

NEXT ISSUE--
"THE CHOICE"

GLIRELL IS A WORLD OF GREAT BEAUTY--

--THE ONE PLACE OF PEACE IN A UNIVERSE RIFE WITH TURMOIL. SOME HAVE CALLED IT HEAVEN...

TODAY, HEAVEN HAS BECOME A VIRTUAL HELL!

GREEN LANTERN CORPS™

SHE IS ONE OF THE VALIANT 3600...ONE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNIVERSE CALL A GREEN LANTERN.

BY ALL THAT IS HOLY! THE ORELITE WARSHIPS EVEN NOW DESTROY MY WORLD--AND I AM FORBIDDEN TO RAISE MY HAND TO STOP THEM!

YET IN ALL THE ANNALS OF THE MIGHTY CORPS, HAS ONE OF THEIR NUMBERS EVER FACED SUCH A DIRE DECISION AS JERYLL OF GLIRELL? HAS A GREEN LANTERN EVER NEEDED TO MAKE...

"the CHOICE!"

☆ PAUL KUPPERBERG WRITER ☆ CARMINE INFANTINO PENCILLER
☆ FRANK CHIARAMONTE - INKER ☆
☆ ADAM KUBERT LETTERER ☆ ANTHONY COLORIST ☆ DAVE MANAK EDITOR

LONG HAVE I BEEN THE WIELDER OF THE *POWER RING* OF THE *GUARDIANS*-- THE *PROTECTOR* OF MY PEOPLE AND THEIR WORLD...BUT ALSO HAVE I LIVED BY THE TENETS OF *GLIRELL*.

WE ARE A *PEACE-LOVING* RACE WHOSE VERY *TRADITIONS FORBID* THE USE OF *VIOLENCE*... OF *ANY* SORT--

"--YET ONCE HAVE I *VIOLATED* THOSE LAWS--ONCE DID I *STRIKE* ONE OF MY FELLOWS...AND THOUGH THROUGH *WILL POWER INDUCED REFLEX* IT MAY HAVE BEEN--

"--*STILL* DID I COMMIT THE VILE ACT! BUT THE *COUNCIL* OF GLIRREL *FORGAVE* MY TRANSGRESSION--

"--WARNING THAT A *REPEAT* OF THE SIN WOULD MEAN MY *BANISHMENT* FROM GLIRREL.

"YET THE DEED DID NOT GO *UNPUNISHED*, FOR DID IT NOT CAUSE MY LOVEMATE *TYWENE* TO FLEE MY *PRESENCE* IN *FEAR*... FORSAKING OUR LIFELONG PLEDGE OF *DEVOTION* BECAUSE HE COULD NOT *BEAR* TO FACE WHAT I HAD DONE?

"AND THEN, WHEN THE *DRELITE SLAVER-SHIPS* BROKE THEIR AGES-OLD *TREATY* WITH MY WORLD AND CAME TO *DESTROY* OUR CIVILIZATION AND ENSLAVE MY PEOPLE, I SOUGHT TO *ACT*--

"--BUT MY HANDS WERE *TIED* BY THE ADMONITION OF THE ELDERS...FOR TO ACT WOULD BE TO *DEFY* THEIR WARNINGS OF *PEACE*--

"AND TO REMAIN *PACIFISTIC* IN THE FACE OF THE DRELITE THREAT WOULD BE TO *DOOM* GLIRELL TO *DESTRUCTION!*"

YET...WHAT *CHOICE* HAVE I? WHAT ELSE MAY I DO?

WHATEVER IS *NECESSARY.* OH, *JERYLL* OF GLIRELL WILL *TRY*--

--*BUT*, BY THE FATHER, SHE KNOWS THAT EVEN THAT CANNOT BE *ENOUGH*.

EH? SO THE *INSECTS* HAVE A *GREEN LANTERN* AS THEIR PROTECTOR, DO THEY? *BAH!* *PITIFUL FOOLS!*

ALL THE GALAXY KNOWS OF THE GLIRELLIAN'S IDIOTIC PACIFISM --AND BY HER *ACTIONS*, THIS GREEN LANTERN SHOWS HERSELF TO BE OF THEIR NUMBER. SHE WILL NOT FIGHT.

KILL HER FIRST--THEN THE *REST* OF THE WORLD SHALL *FOLLOW!*

THE RUTHLESS ORDER IS COLDLY RELAYED--

--*AND* EXECUTION IS *SWIFT*...YET *FUTILE*...

FATHER--NO! I KNEW THEY WOULD NOT RESPOND TO MY *WARNING*...YET I *HAD* TO MAKE THE ATTEMPT. FOR WHAT *GOOD* IS A WARNING--

--IF I MAY DO *NAUGHT* TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH *ACTION*..?

FTTTPPPZZZZ

AT *BEST* I MAY *DISARM* THE INVADERS, WEAPONS. SURELY EVEN THE *COUNCIL* MAY NOT OBJECT TO *THAT!*

SHE FINDS IT DIFFICULT-- *NAY*, ALMOST *IMPOSSIBLE* TO RESTRAIN THE *UNLIMITED MIGHT* THAT IS HERS THROUGH THE AWESOME *POWER RING* AGAINST THE RAMPAGING INVADERS--

--*BUT* SHE *TRIES*...OH, *HOW* SHE TRIES!

HER WORLD EXPECTS IT-- HER CONSCIENCE *DEMANDS* IT!

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ELSEWHERE...

SWIFTLY, YOUNG ONES! WE MUST TAKE SHELTER WITHIN!

W-WHY DO THEY DO THIS, TEACHER!?

I DO NOT... UNDERSTAND, EITHER, CHILD. BUT YOU SHALL BE SAFE... IF YOU HURRY!

THERE, LACKEY! I WANT THAT DESTROYED. THE GLIRELLIAN WHELPS HAVE NO VALUE ON THE SLAVE BLOCK!

AYE, LORD T'TYH. IT SHALL BE DONE!

IT IS DONE... A DEED SO HEINOUS THAT EVEN THE PEACE-LOVING FOLK OF GLIRELL ARE SHOCKED--AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN RECORDED HISTORY--

--MOVED TO ACTION!

BY THE FATHER--HOW LONG SHALL THIS GO ON...?! SHALL WE ALLOW THE MONSTROUS DRELITE TO SLAUGHTER US LIKE SHEEP-- TO DESTROY OUR CHILDREN WHILE WE STAND BY... DOING NAUGHT?

NO! IT SHALL NOT BE!

FIGHT, I SAY-- DESTROY THE IN-VADERS!

KILL THEM!

AND SUDDENLY THEY ARE SHEEP NO LONGER--SUDDENLY THEY ARE A PEOPLE FIGHTING AS ONE AGAINST A COMMON ENEMY...AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD ENSLAVE AND KILL.

IT IS A SIGHT THAT IS AT ONCE AN INSPIRATION...

...AND CAUSE FOR GRIEVING!

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AND SO...

FROM THE SPACE PORT BELOW...*SHIPS!* WHAT DO THEY DO HERE--? UNLESS... BY THE FATHER'S STAFF, *UNLESS* THEY COME TO--

"--ATTACK!"

ATTACK THEY DO-- WITH A *VENGEANCE!* YET THE PEACE-LOVING INHABITANTS OF GLIRELL KNOW *NOTHING* OF *WAR*... POSSESS NO *WEAPONS* WITH WHICH TO STRIKE BACK AGAINST THEIR TORMENTORS.

BUT STILL THEY BATTLE ON, RELYING INSTEAD ON A HASTILY, ILL-CONCEIVED *PLAN*--

--AND SO MANY OF THEM DIE IN THE DOING.

I CANNOT LET THIS *HAPPEN*. IT MUST *END*--*NO MATTER THE COST!*

THEIR *COMMANDER* IS HERE SOMEWHERE...FIND HIM--*SLAUGHTER HIM* AS HE DOES OUR WORLD--AND THE CARNAGE SHALL *SURELY CEASE!* COME!

HALT! THIS MUST GO NO FARTHER!

JERYLL! WHY DO YOU STOP US, WOMAN--?

AYE--'TIS THE DRELITES YOU SHOULD BE BATTLING, GREEN LANTERN...NOT YOUR OWN KIND!

DO YOU NOT SEE WHAT IT IS YOU DO...?

WE PROTECT OUR WORLD, JERYLL!

YOU LOWER YOURSELVES TO THEIR SAVAGERY, MAN--YOU BECOME THE VERY BEASTS YOU SEEK TO DESTROY!

WE OF GLIRELL LIVE FOR PEACE--YET YOU WISH WAR. THIS SHOULD NOT BE. NOT EVER!

THEN WE SHOULD DIE FOR THAT? YOU WISH US TO LIE STILL WHILE OUR WORLD IS BLASTED TO RUBBLE... AND WE EN-SLAVED?

IF WE DO NOT FIGHT THEM WOMAN--THEN WHO SHALL?

I SHALL...

...AND MAY THE FATHER HAVE MERCY ON MY SOUL...!

BEARD OF MULKCK--WE ARE ATTACKED!

DEFEND YOUR-SELVES, BROTHERS!

BWANGG

AYE, MONSTERS--DEFEND YOUR-SELVES--

--IF YOU CAN!

THE DRELITE WARRIORS WILL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT THEM.

THEY CAN NOT KNOW THE *PAIN* JERYLL OF GLIRELL UNDERGOES AS HER RING OF POWER IS *UNLEASHED* UPON THESE ALIEN BEINGS --

--CAN NOT *UNDERSTAND* THE *HORROR* SHE FEELS AS SHE REIGNS DESTRUCTION UPON THEIR FLESH...THEIR MACHINES...

BUT ONE THING THEY *MAY* UNDERSTAND--AND *THAT* IS THE SADDEST OF ALL--

KHARWHAM

--IT FEELS GOOD!

--AND MAY THE FATHER *HELP* HER...

--SHE REVELS IN ITS SAVAGERY!

AFTERMATH:

I-IT IS... ENDED...

AYE, MY BROTHER. WE HAVE *SURVIVED*... BUT BARELY...EH? *GREEN LANTERN*--!

IT IS DONE, HONORED COUNCILORS. I HAVE COME TO BID *FAREWELL* TO YOU AND...AND MY WORLD.

FAREWELL--? *NO*, FAIR JERYLL...THAT IS NOT HOW IT SHALL BE. WHAT YOU DID GOES AGAINST ALL WE HOLD *SACRED*, YES--

--BUT IT WAS A CHOICE THAT *NEEDED* TO BE MADE...*DESPITE* ALL TRADITION-- ELSE GLIRELL WOULD HAVE THIS DAY *PERISHED*. THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO BE *FORGIVEN*--

INDEED, 'TIS *WE* WHO SHOULD BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS. 'TIS *WE* WHO HAVE WRONGED YOU BY OUR *HASTY* DECREE.

WE HAD BELIEVED *ALL* COULD BE *SOLVED* THROUGH OUR *BELIEFS*. WE ...WE WERE FOOLS--

NO, GOOD COUNCILOR. YOUR BELIEFS ARE *JUST*. ...GLIRELL HAS BEEN EVER THUS, AND THUS IT SHALL *REMAIN*...WITH-OUT ME!

FOR IT IS *I* WHO HAVE NO PLACE HERE ANY LONGER... I-I...*BE-LONG* ELSEWHERE. I WHO HAVE *FAILED* TO MAKE THOSE BELIEFS *WORK*... I WHO TOOK *JOY* IN THE VIOLENCE I DID COMMIT...

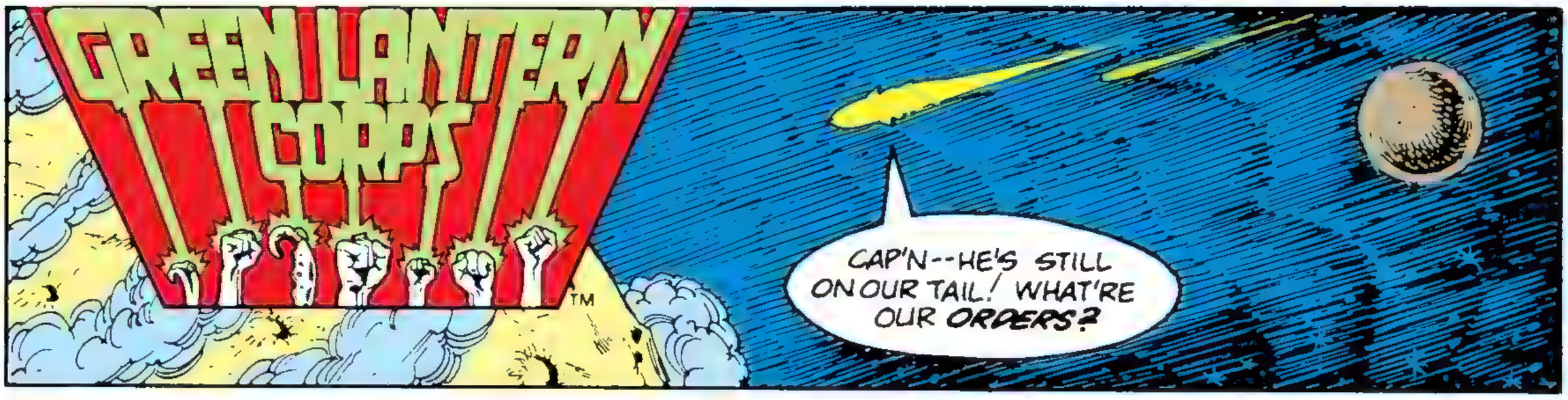
NO--GLIRELL SHALL *CONTINUE* IN *PEACE*, MY FRIENDS--

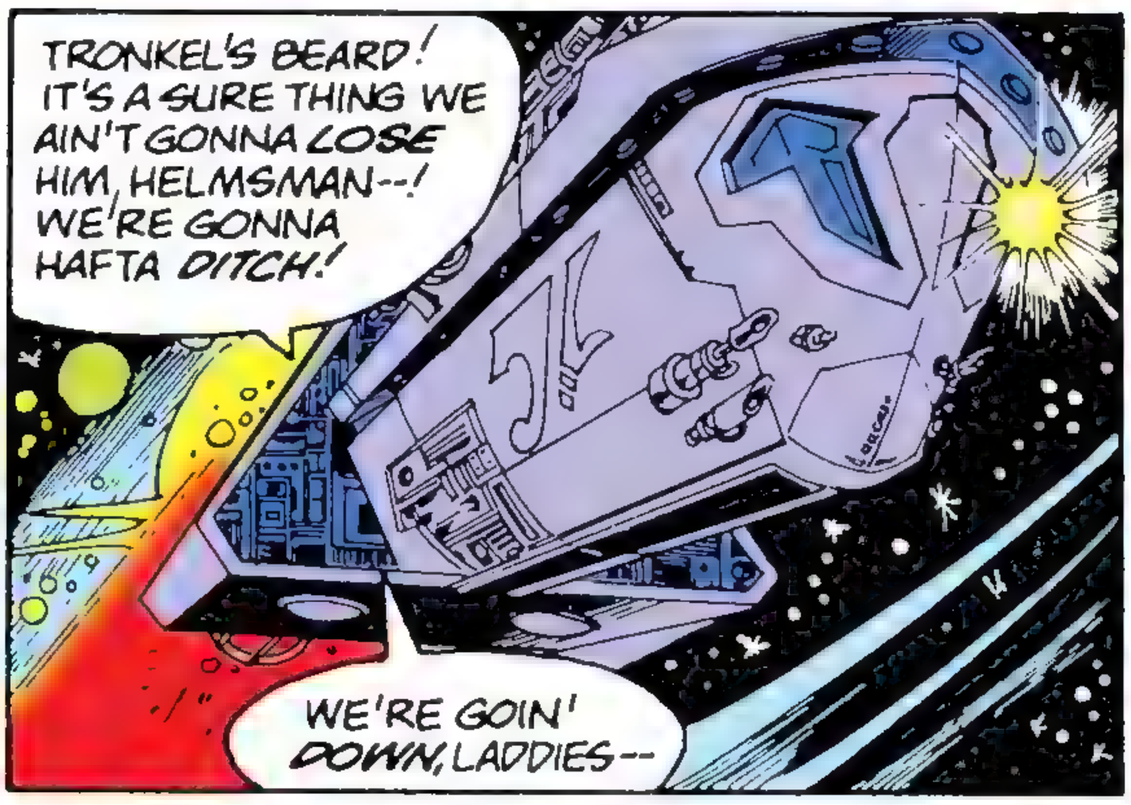
--WHILE I SHALL FIND *MY* PLACE SOMEWHERE...OUT *THERE*...!

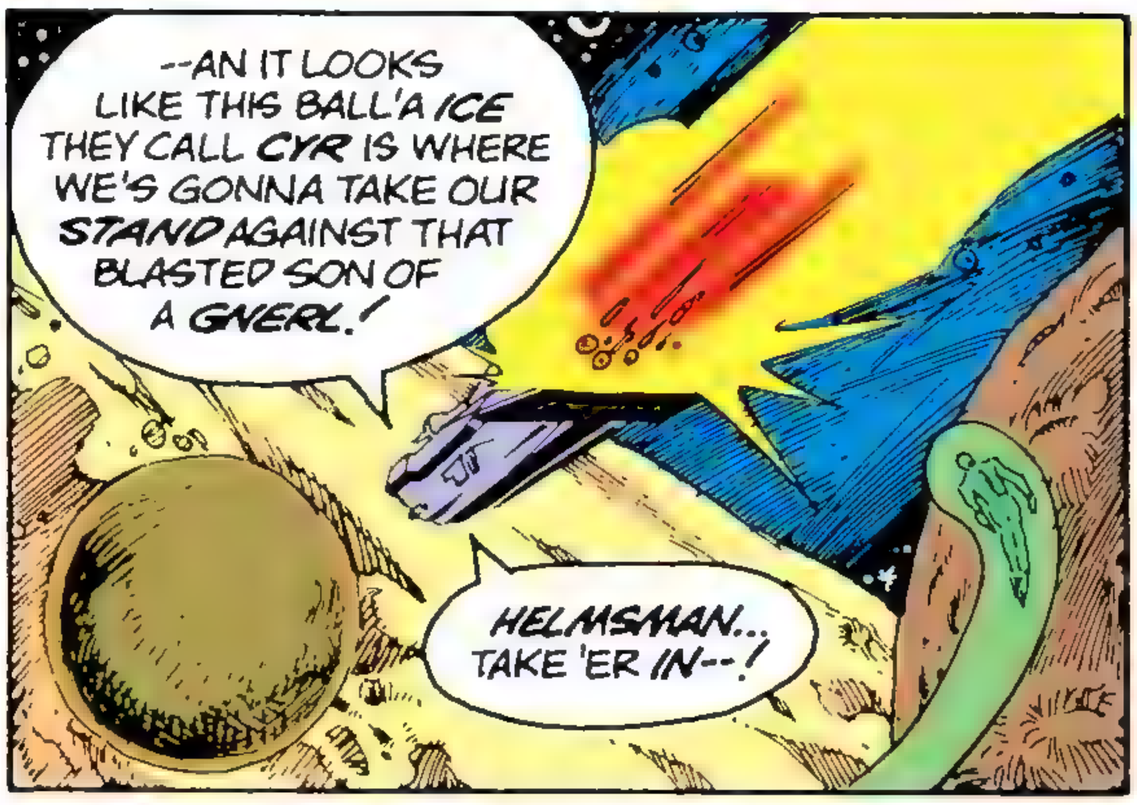
SOME CALL GLIRELL *HEAVEN*... BUT SO VERY *FEW* KNOW JUST HOW *TRUE* THAT IS --

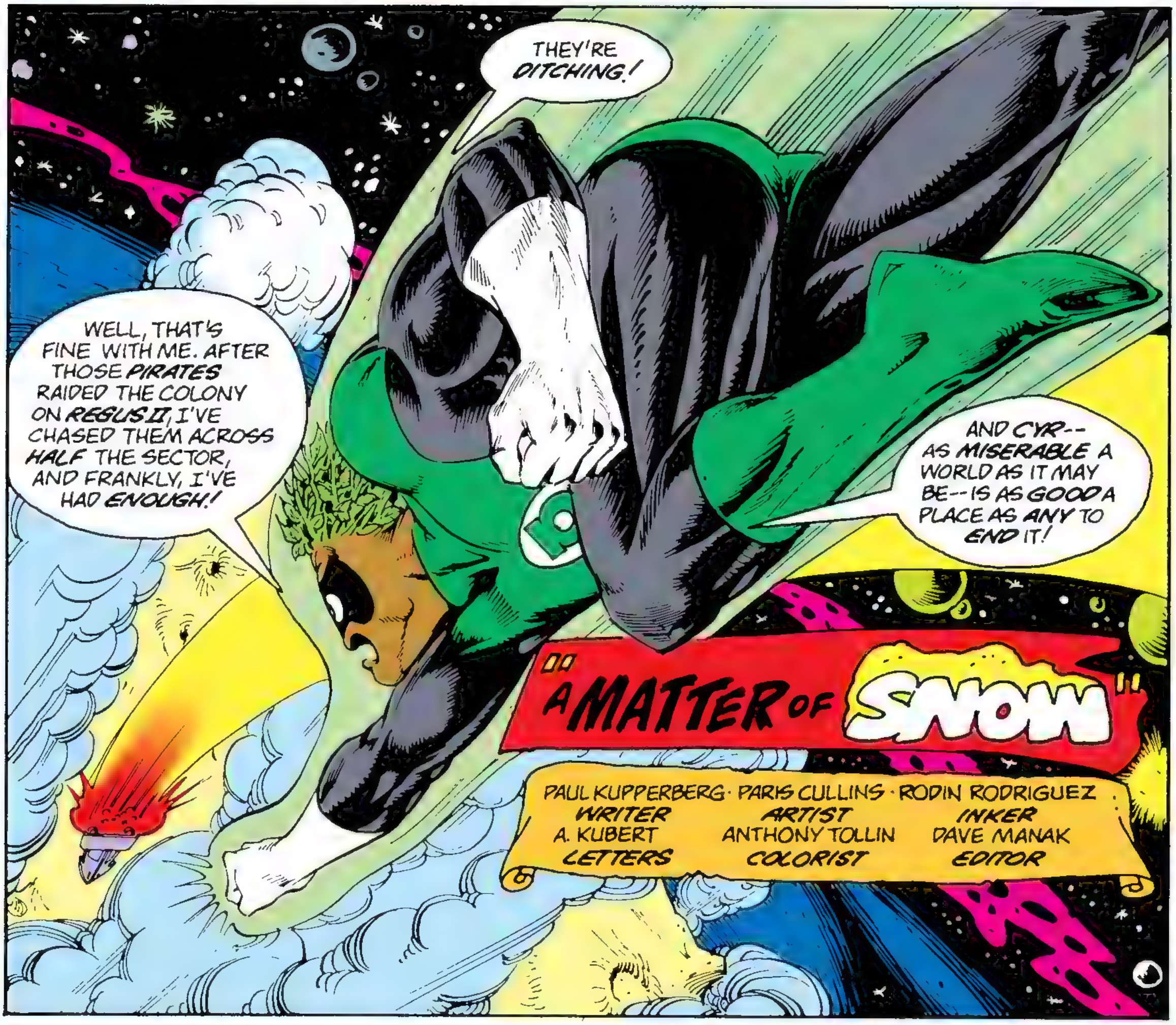
--AND FEWER *STILL* KNOW WHAT IT IS TO *RELINQUISH* THEIR PLACE ON SUCH A WORLD...

END


GREEN LANTERN CORPS
CAP'N--HE'S STILL ON OUR TAIL! WHAT'RE OUR ORDERS?


TRONKEL'S BEARD! IT'S A SURE THING WE AIN'T GONNA LOSE HIM, HELMSMAN--! WE'RE GONNA HAFTA DITCH!
WE'RE GOIN' DOWN, LADDIES--


--AN IT LOOKS LIKE THIS BALL'A ICE THEY CALL CYR IS WHERE WE'S GONNA TAKE OUR STAND AGAINST THAT BLASTED SON OF A GNERL!
HELMSMAN... TAKE 'ER IN--!


THEY'RE DITCHING!
WELL, THAT'S FINE WITH ME. AFTER THOSE PIRATES RAIDED THE COLONY ON REGUS II, I'VE CHASED THEM ACROSS HALF THE SECTOR, AND FRANKLY, I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
AND CYR-- AS MISERABLE A WORLD AS IT MAY BE-- IS AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO END IT!
"A MATTER OF SNOW"
PAUL KUPPERBERG · PARIS CULLINS · RODIN RODRIGUEZ
WRITER ARTIST INKER
A. KUBERT ANTHONY TOLLIN DAVE MANAK
LETTERS COLORIST EDITOR

LET THEM FLEE! THERE'S NO PLACE ON THIS *FORSAKEN WORLD* THEY CAN HIDE FROM ME.

--REGARDLESS OF *WHERE* IT TAKES ME!

TALURT, BUT IT'S *COLD!* IF IT WASN'T FOR THE *PROTECTIVE AURA* OF *WARMTH* I'VE CREATED WITH MY *POWER RING*, MY *MIND STALKS* WOULD HAVE FROZEN IN *SECONDS!*

STILL, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO *LAMENT* THE *TROPICAL WARMTH* OF MY HOMEWORLD RIGHT NOW!

THE PIRATES' SHIP WAS *LOST* TO MY VIEW COMING THROUGH THE *CLOUDS*...

...NOR WILL STANDING HERE GET ME *BACK* THERE. NO MATTER *WHERE* THEY'RE *HIDING*, MY POWER RING WILL FIND THEM... *FAST!*

THERE! THE RING'S PICKED UP THEIR SHIP'S *REACTOR DRIVE ENGINES*--

THOSE PIRATES HAVE RUN *ROUGHSHOD* ACROSS THE GALAXY FAR *TOO LONG* FOR ME TO GIVE UP THE CHASE--

--SO THERE'S *NOTHING* TO BE GAINED BY KEEPING THEM *WAITING.*

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BY THE STARS... CAP'N! SENSORS'RE PICKING UP AN ENERGY SOURCE ...RIGHT ON OUR TAILS!

BLAST THAT GREEN BLOODY LANTERN SCUM! AWRIGHT, HELMSMAN--TAKE EVASIVE ACTION!

BAM!

--AND LET'S LOSE THAT SONOVA-SPACE-DOG!

IT'S NOGO, CAP'N! THE ENERGY-SOURCE'S STILL ON US...LONG AS WE'RE ON REACTOR DRIVE, WE CAN'T SHAKE IT!

THEN MAYBE WE OUGHTA STOP TRYIN', BUCKO S. SEEMS IF MEDPHYL WANTS US SO BAD, WE SHOULD LET 'IM CATCH US --

--AND THEN HAND 'EM HIS HEAD FOR HIS TROUBLES! HELMSMAN...FIND US A PLACE TO SET DOWN--A NICE INHABITED PLACE!

GOT IT, CAP'N... SENSORS'RE PICKIN' UP MULTIPLE LIFE FORMS BELOW...MUST BE A NATIVE VILLAGE!

WHAT'RE YOU WAITIN' FOR--? CUT REACTOR-DRIVE--

--AND GO ON IN! WE DON'T WANNA KEEP THE LITTLE BUGGERS WAITIN'!

FOOOSSH!

3

SKEEEET!

BRISSSTTT!

HA! HA! HA

THE TRAIL'S... *DISAPPEARED!* THE PIRATES MUST'VE *LANDED*-- BUT JUDGING FROM THE *RESIDUE* OF THE ENERGY-TRAIL--

--THEY *CAN'T* BE *FAR!* AHHH, *BELOW!* IT SEEMS THEY'VE DECIDED TO *WAIT* FOR ME, AND I'D SURELY *HATE* TO *DISAPPOINT* THEM!

BY THE GUARDIANS--NO!

I--IT'S A *SLAUGHTER!* THE NATIVES OF *CYR* ARE AMONG THE *GENTLEST* IN THE UNIVERSE. T-THEY... DIDN'T *DESERVE* SUCH AN END--

YO--MEDPHYL...GREEN LANTERN! YOU LOOKIN' FER *US?*

THE PIRATES ...IN THAT CAVE!

YES, *BUTCHER,* I'M LOOKING FOR *YOU*... LOOKING TO BRING YOU AND YOUR MURDEROUS LOT TO *JUSTICE* FOR THIS *HEINOUS DEED!*

SURE, LANTERN--COME AND *GET US*... AND THEN WATCH ME *BLAST* THIS LITTLE *INSECT'S* HEAD ALL OVER THIS CAVE! *HAHAHA!*

YOU *SLIME--!*

NOW, IF YOU DON'T WANNA SEE THIS INSECT *HURT* NONE, YOU BETTER JUST LET THAT *RING'A* YOURS--

WATCH YOUR *TONGUE,* LADDIE. ROUGH TALK MAKES MY *TRIGGER FINGER TWITCH.* HA HA HA!

M-MY RING...?

--FALL TO THE *GROUND --NOW!*

NEVER! I'M *FORBIDDEN* BY THE *GUARDIANS* TO GIVE UP MY RING--AT *ANY COST!*

WELL NOW, THAT'S A WHOLE 'NOTHER STORY, EY, LADDIES? WHAT WE GONNA DO NOW?

AY SAY WE BLASTS TH' SCUM, CAP'N...AFTA WE PUTS A HOLE THROUGH YER L'IL FRIEND!

SOUND ADVICE, BUCKO--

WHAT THE--?

MUST ACT FAST... SAVE THE CYRIAN AND MYSELF--

--SO LET'S BURN THAT GREEN PLANT-HEAD!

--BEFORE PUTTING A PERMANENT STOP TO THOSE MURDERING PIRAT...

ARRG!

--SO CHILLING! BLESSED OA... I-IT CAN'T BE... THE SNOWFALL ON THIS WORLD... IS Y-YELLOW-T-THE ONE THING MY POWER RING IS VULNERABLE TO!

UGH! T-THAT PAIN...SO--SO SUDDEN--

BY THE HOLY SPIRITS... C-CAN'T STAND THE AGONY... THE INTENSE COLD! M-MY BODY ... WAS R-RAISED IN A TROPICAL CLIMATE... N-NEED WARMTH TO SURVIVE!

T-THE COLD CAN... CAN KILL ME!

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BUT THEN, I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE COLD--NOT IF THOSE BLASTS GET MUCH CLOSER!

STILL, I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET THOSE PIRATES GET AWAY FROM ME...NO MATTER WHAT!

TALURT! I-I FEEL MY MIND-STALKS...D-DYING FROM THE COLD ALREADY... I HAVEN'T M-MUCH TIME...

W-WHAT OTHER CHOICE DO I HAVE, T-THEN--

--BUT TO MAKE MYSELF THEIR WILLING TARGET!

THERE HE IS, LADDIES. MAKE YOUR OL' CAP'N PROUD...

...FRY THAT FLOWER-HEADED SON OF A BERRL-BEAST!

VRREEET!

VTTT!

GUARDIANS, BUT THIS IS HARD... I-I CAN BARELY S-STAY ON MY FEET...B-BUT I MUST KEEP MOVING...MUSTN'T S-STOP...

U-UNTIL THEY'VE DONE MY B-BIDDING ...YES!

IT WAS A GRAVE R-RISK...BUT THEY'VE DONE I-IT... MELTED AWAY T-THE ICE AND SNOW... E-EXPOSING THE BED-ROCK BELOW!

--THROUGH W-WHICH I CAN ES-CAPE...BOTH THE C-COLD A-AND T-THEIR WEAPONS...

BY THE BLEEDIN' STARS... WHERE'D HE GO, BLAST 'IM!

BEHIND YOU, BUTCHER.!

SHAM!

TRONKEL'S BEARD--HOW!

VEEP! VREET! VEET!

IT'S ALL THANKS TO **YOU**, PIRATE. I COULDN'T FLY AWAY THROUGH THE **YELLOW STORM**--NOR COULD I HOPE TO **SURVIVE** THE **FREEZING COLD** MUCH LONGER--

SSSTT!

--BUT I **COULD** BURROW **UNDERGROUND** TO GET AWAY FROM **BOTH**... **ONCE** YOUR BLASTS **CLEARED** ENOUGH ICE AND SNOW AWAY FOR MY RING TO BE **EFFECTIVE**!

PLEASE... DON'T BE IN SUCH A **HURRY** TO LEAVE-- I'D LIKE TO **PROPERLY** THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

BUT FIRST, I WONDER IF YOU COULD DO ME ONE **MORE FAVOR**...

...BY JUST LETTING ME KNOW **WHEN** IT **STOPS SNOWING**!

END

GREEN LANTERN CORPS

"IT'S SO **PEACEFUL** IN THIS GARDEN... SO UNLIKE THE LIFE I'VE KNOWN...

"YET THERE ARE **MIRACLES** HERE ... SUN AND RAIN MAKE THE SEEDS BLOSSOM...

"DISTANT THUNDER... SOUNDS LIKE HEAVY WEATHER COMING..."

EH? SOMEONE THERE--

WHO?

STORM - BROTHER

STORY = **ROBIN SNYDER** / ART = **DAVE GIBBONS**
EDITOR = **ERNIE COLÓN**

YOU KNOW ME, HARVID... YOU KNOW ME LIKE YOUR OWN SHADOW...

GHANRIK?

AYE, **GHANRIK**... YOU REMEMBER, JUST AS I REMEMBER. YOUR FACE HAS BURNED A BRAND IN MY MIND... **THESE LAST HUNDRED YEARS!**

"**SOMETIMES IT TAKES A STORM** TO CHANGE WHAT'S IN A MAN'S HEART..."

ONE HUNDRED YEARS! DO YOU HEAR ME? YOU **STOLE** THEM FROM ME! THOUGH PERHAPS I SHOULD BE **THANKFUL** ...FOR WHO COULD HAVE GUESSED THAT PRISON WOULD **RETARD** MY **AGING**, WHILE **YOU**... YOU HAVE BECOME **OLD!**

"**YOU** WERE THAT STORM... YOU OF ALL PEOPLE."

YOU COULD HAVE LET ME **GO**... INSTEAD YOU HANDED ME OVER TO YOUR SANCTIMONIOUS **GUARDIANS** ...WHO PLACED ME IN **SOLITARY CONFINEMENT!**

"**AND I THANK** YOU, 'STORM', I THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME BACK MY **SELF-RESPECT.**"

SO **MUCH** COULD HAVE BEEN MINE... BUT FOR YOUR INTERFERENCE...

...**YOU CURSED GREEN LANTERN!**

"**TRUTHFULLY**? TRUTHFULLY, I WAS **DAMNED GOOD**... AND I'M NOT ASHAMED TO **ADMIT** IT! SOME WOULD SAY I SUFFERED THE SIN OF **PRIDE**... BUT THAT IS INCORRECT. I KNEW MY LIMITATIONS...

"**I** TOOK THE JOB ABOUT THE TIME YOU UPPED AND DISAPPEARED... AND I GREW TO LOVE IT, THE CORPS WAS DEMANDING AND TOOK ALL MY TIME. **THE CORPS** ABOVE ALL, ABOVE **FAMILY**, ABOVE **FRIENDS**... BUT I **LOVED** IT!

"**I**'VE OFTEN **WONDERED** ABOUT YOU. HOW **DIFFERENT** WE WERE...

"THE PATHS WE CHOSE TO TRAVEL TOOK US IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.

"NOW THESE DIFFERENT PATHS HAVE BROUGHT US **TOGETHER** AGAIN...

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"AND IF I WAS EVER **LONELY**, THERE WAS ALWAYS **THE CORPS** ..."

STAY, GREEN LANTERN ...THE SIGHT OF **YOU** UPON YOUR KNEES GIVES ME **GREAT PLEASURE**!

THIS TIME, THE **VICTORY** SHALL BE **MINE**!

"AH, THE **MEMORIES**! LIKE A **MILLION YEARS** OF MEMORIES ..!"

BUT WHAT IS THIS? MY POWER IS SO **SLIGHT**!

"I WAS SO **STARTLED** WHEN I WAS CALLED BEFORE THE **TRIBUNAL**... I COULDN'T **IMAGINE** WHY THE GUARDIANS WANTED TO SEE ME, DAMNED FOOL THAT I WAS ..."

HAS YOUR TERM OF IMPRISONMENT SO **CONFUSED** YOU, GHANRIK? THERE IS **STILL** POWER IN THESE ANCIENT LIMBS!

"OUR PHILOSOPHERS TEACH THAT IT IS A **SIN** TO **THINK** EVIL. I NEVER BELIEVED THAT...I STILL DON'T. THE SIN IS **ACTING** ON THOSE THOUGHTS ..."

YET IT SEEMS TIME HAS **WEAKENED** THAT POWER IN ME AS WELL AS YOU!

"**YOUR** SIN WAS ACTING ON THOSE THOUGHTS. THOUGH BITTERNESS **WAS** IN MY HEART, STILL I KNEW **I** COULD NOT ACT ON THAT BITTERNESS..."

IRONIC AND AMUSING ...TWO ANCIENT MEN BATTLING TO EXHAUSTION ...AND FOR **WHAT**?

EVEN THE **SKIES** WEEP AT OUR FOOLISHNESS!

"AND I SUPPOSE **THAT** WAS THE ONLY REAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US."

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"THOUGH I WAS BITTER OVER MY **ENFORCED RETIREMENT** BY THE GUARDIANS --**STILL** I COULD NOT BRING MYSELF TO LASH OUT..."

GHANRIK --**THE DAM!** HELP ME... PLEASE!

"**SO** I WENT INTO THIS INVOLUNTARY RETIREMENT ...COMING TO TERMS WITH MYSELF AND MY LIFE...I WAS SO **SURE** I HAD BEEN **WRONGED.**"

TOGETHER, **TOGETHER** WE MIGHT JUST BE ABLE TO...

"**UNTIL TODAY, UNTIL YOU** RE-APPEARED..."

I'LL TRY TO HOLD THE DAM UP ...AND YOU USE YOUR HEAT BLAST TO FUSE THE WEAKENED MATERIAL!

I-I'LL **TRY!**

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"YOU SHOWED ME THE **TRUTH** ...THAT I HAVE GROWN **OLD** ...OLD..."

TOGETHER ...WE'RE **DOING IT**!

"BETWEEN US WE BARELY HELD THE DAM TOGETHER. **ALONE** WE WOULD HAVE **FAILED**!

"ALL THOSE YEARS OF CHANNELING OUR POWERS AND TODAY WE WERE ABLE TO ACT WITH THE SHEER FORCE OF OUR **COMBINED WILLS**!

"YET **NEITHER** OF US COULD HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE **ALONE**..."

I'M EXHAUSTED ...AND YOU?

YES, TIRED...

PLEASE, COME INSIDE, SHARE WINE WITH ME.

HARVID, I...

...I'M **SORRY** ABOUT THE FLOWERS...

YES, I KNOW, I AM, TOO.

THE END.

Very late it was, my little.

So late, that ALL the moons beamed down upon the youngling as he crept into the master's room.

You know how late that is.

But he wasn't sleepy, oh MY no!

LONG had he planned this as he worked for the master: cleaning and cooking, listening and learning.

The ring, the brightly shining RING OF POWER! So many lessons learned, but never a PIP of what he so desired!

He could wait no longer, this youngling.

The master would NEVER KNOW... there would be PLENTY of time for returning.

Or so he hoped, my little.

GREEN LANTERN CORPS™ "apprentice"

TODD KLEIN, STORY & LETTERS * DAVE GIBBONS, ARTIST * NANSI HOOLAHAN, COLORS * COLÒN, EDITOR *

AT LAST, AT *LAST!*

SLEEP AWAY, OLD MASTER, WHILE MIGHTY *DEETER* WIELDS THE RING!

LET THE EVIL ONES *COWER* AND *MEWL* AS I GO AT THEM...

...THUS...?

HUMPH. THIS WILL *NEVER* DO.

Grinching down, he tries harder!

PIT

PIT

PIT

PIT

FUPP!

FIPP!

UG!

THAT'S BETTER... BUT PERHAPS IT *WILL* TAKE SOME PRACTICE.

Practice he DOES, until the night is ABLAZE with his practicings! The oldsters point and mumble.

"Be strange doin's tonight," they noddle.

Well away they keep, to be sure.

While...

HO! AND IS IT LITTLE *DEETER* IN THAT FINE ARRAY?

TRULY! *HE* IS THE MIGHTY *GREEN LANTERN* WHO BATTLES--

TIP TIP

PARDON ...YOUNG SIR?

AH. *JUST* WHAT I NEED ON A COLD NIGHT--

--WARM BLOOD, AND A NICE GREEN *FIRE!*

OH, PLEASE, RING, HEED ME NOW...

As never before, he grinches...

WH-WH- WHU-WHU--!?

--and attacks! The bright beams SPLASH across the beast...

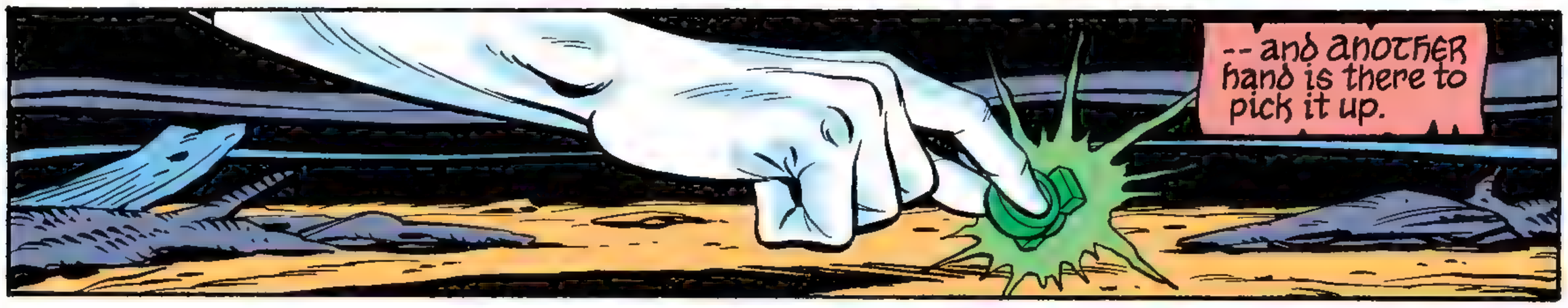
...and fell him not.

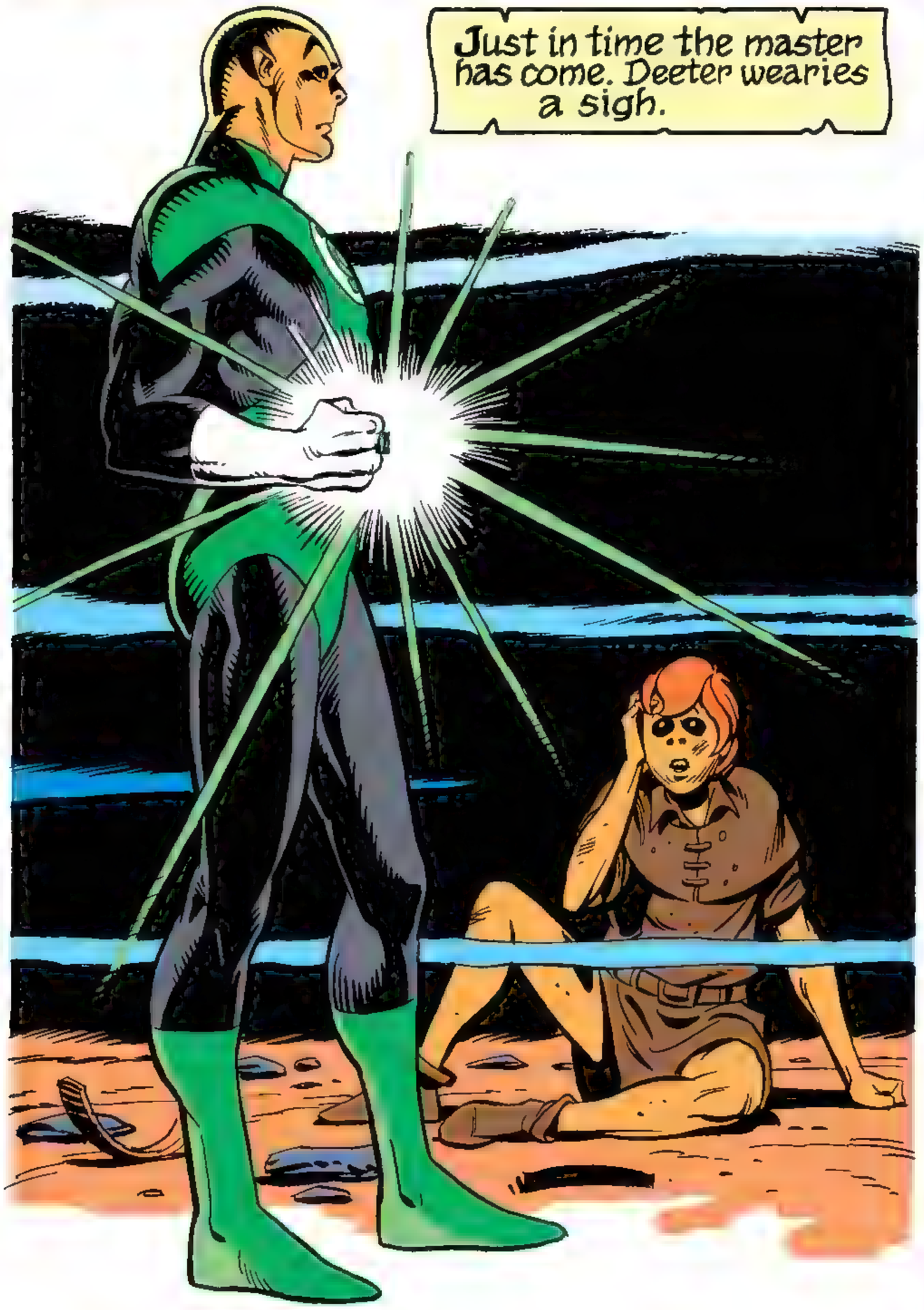
HEE! HEH! GOOD, YOUNGLING. I FEEL BETTER ALREADY.

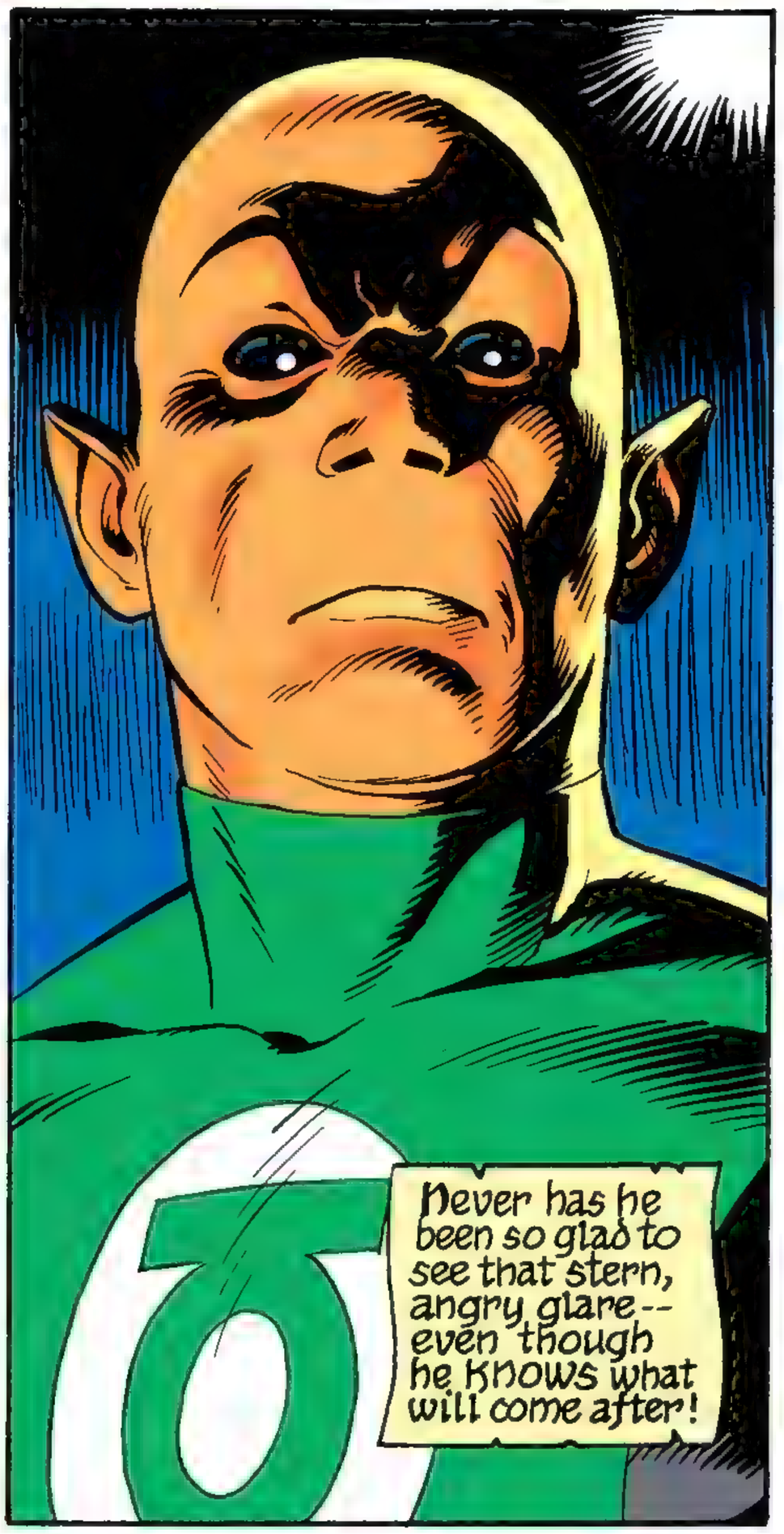
NOW A FEW LANTERN BONES FOR SPICE!

The apprentice tries to scream for his master... but the words FREEZE in his throat! This is NOT what he bargained for, oh my no!

Desperate, he HURLS the ring--


--and another hand is there to pick it up.


Just in time the master has come. Deeter wearies a sigh.


Never has he been so glad to see that stern, angry glare--even though he knows what will come after!

TH-THERE I WAS, O WONDERFUL MASTER, JUST *CLEANING* YOUR RING FOR TOMORROW, WHEN--

--*CRASH!* THE *BEAST* CAME *RIGHT THROUGH* THE DOOR! NATURALLY, I WAS *FURIOUS*, KNOWING HOW MUCH YOU *LIKED* THE DOOR, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO *WAKE* YOU, SO--

ENOUGH! I SEE A *FOOLISH APPRENTICE*. I SEE A MOLLUCKING GREAT *CLUTTER*.

GO, BRATLING, AND GET THY MOP, SO THAT *ONE* MAY TAKE CARE OF THE *OTHER!*

So he labored, while the TRUE Green Lantern smiled just a little at a lesson well taught. So he labored 'til ALL the suns arose again. You know how long THAT is.

Think of this, my little, should you ever scamper off again to the Green Lantern's house.

I remember well that he was no easy one to work for. But then neither am I. Oh my no.

END.

HEED MY WARNING, IVANAR... NEVER HAVE OUR ANCIENT WAYS BEEN SO THREATENED! A POWERFUL AND EVIL FORCE LIES ACROSS OUR PATH.

MY EYES ARE OLD, BUT THEY STILL SEE THE CRYSTAL WELL ENOUGH TO TELL YOU THAT!

MOTHER, I FEAR YOUR PREDICTION HAS COME TOO LATE!

EH...?

WHATEVER THAT THING MAY BE, IT HAS THE ENTIRE CARAVAN IN ITS IRON GRIP--

--AND WE HAVE NOT THE FUEL TO BREAK FREE!

GREEN LANTERN CORPS™

"HERO"

SCRIPT: TODD KLEIN • ARTIST: DAVE GIBBONS • EDITOR: ERNIE COLÓN

CO-PLOTTERS

COLORS: NANSI HOOLAHAN • LETTERS: LENOT KIDD

"DO NOT *DESPAIR*, MY SON...THE CRYSTAL *ALSO* TELLS ME THERE IS ONE WHO MIGHT *HELP* US! HE IS...A *GREEN FLYING MAN!*"

"THIS IS *NOT* THE TIME FOR *HUMOR*, OLD WOMAN!"

"WE MUST *PREPARE* OUR PEOPLE TO MEET THEIR END WITH *SOLEMN DIGNITY.*"

HMMHA... ANOTHER *ANTI-MATTER LEAK.* BEST GET THESE SHIPS *OUT OF THE WAY* SO I CAN *FIX* IT!

WE SHALL INSTILL THEM WITH... WITH...WE...

OF *COURSE*, IVANAR. YOU MUST *TEACH* ME TO BE MORE *SERIOUS.*

UH-OH! KNEW IT. *MUCH TOO CLOSE!*

WHY AREN'T THEY *FIRING THEIR ROCKETS* TO GET OUT OF HERE?

HAVE A *WORD* WITH YOU?

AS YOU *WISH.* I WILL OPEN THE *MAIN LOCK.*

2

SOON...

LET'S SEE IF I *GET* THIS... YOU CAN'T SAVE *YOUR-SELVES*, BUT YOU REFUSE *MY* HELP?

IT IS AGAINST OUR *CODE*.

THE *GODS* HAVE PLACED THIS *EVIL* IN OUR ANCIENT PATH, AND WE MUST MEET IT *BRAVELY* AND *ALONE*.

IVANAR-- LET *ME* SPEAK WITH HIM A *MOMENT*.

YOU AND I... WE *UNDERSTAND* THESE THINGS, GREEN MAN. BUT *MY SON*...

...HE HAS THE *ROCK-HEADED PRIDE* OF HIS FATHER! I FEAR YOUR *SENSIBLE WORDS* WILL NOT SWAY HIM. IS THERE ANY OTHER WAY?

HMMHA... PERHAPS THERE *IS*.

THE GUARDIANS WILL NOT *LIKE* IT MUCH, BUT THEN *I'M* HERE AND *THEY* ARE NOT.

SUPPOSE I *GIVE MY POWERS* TO ONE OF YOU? HAS TO BE SOME-ONE *STRONG AND FEARLESS!*

SOUNDS LIKE JUST THE JOB FOR *ME*, EH, FATHER?

WILL YOU *ACCEPT* MY SON GRETTI, LANTERN?

GUARDIANS PRESERVE ME--

I *WILL*.

3

SO...

WELL NOW... I LIKE THIS ALREADY!

I'LL TELL YOU HOW I HANDLE THESE--

NO WORRY, LANTERN. IF YOU CAN DO IT, I CAN DO IT! LET'S BE OFF!

TAKE CARE OF HIM, WISE ONE... HE HAS NOT YET LEARNED HOW LITTLE HE KNOWS.

HMMHA... THIS SHOULD BE INTERESTING.

BAAKHRIM!! THAT WAS CLOSE! WHAT WAS IT?

A SMALL BUT DEADLY PIECE OF ANTI-MATTER. YOU WERE WISE TO AVOID IT!

4

THERE IS A *HOLE* BETWEEN UNIVERSES UP AHEAD--AND ANTI-MATTER IS *LEAKING THROUGH.*

WHEN IT TOUCHES SOMETHING IN *THIS* UNIVERSE, THERE IS A *VIOLENT EXPLOSION!*

YOUR JOB AS *GREEN LANTERN* IS TO *CLOSE* THAT HOLE.

SOUNDS EASY ENOUGH. JUST GET ME *STARTED,* WILL YOU? I'LL SOON CATCH ON!

THE GREEN BEAM CONSTRICTS WITH *UNBELIEVABLE* PRESSURE, UNTIL...

I'VE *DONE IT!!*

EASY ENOUGH FOR *HIM*--BUT MUCH *HARDER* FOR ME!

WON'T *TELL* HIM, THOUGH... HE'D *ENJOY* IT TOO MUCH.

5

POWER-- AND THE COURAGE TO USE IT! NOTHING CAN STAND IN THE WAY OF MY PEOPLE, NOW THAT I HAVE THE LANTERN'S POWER!

PAY ATTENTION, YOU LITTLE FOOL! THIS IS THE HARDEST PART!

UHHH...!

FINISH IT, THEN--I HAVEN'T THE PATIENCE...

...NOT WHEN--

--I CAN--

--DO THIS!!

INSIDE...

WELL DONE, GRETTI!

NOT ANGRY, THEN, WISE ONE?

YOU'RE A HERO, MY DARLIN'!

IT WAS NOTHING, REALLY. WAIT'LL YOU SEE WHAT ELSE I CAN DO!

AS YOU SAID, MOTHER...YOU AND I UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS. GOOD JOURNEY TO YOU!

HE ALMOST WISHES HE COULD STAY A BIT *LONGER*--

--BUT HIS *POWER RING* IS NEEDED ELSEWHERE, AND THE *DANGER* HERE HAS PASSED.

NOW *THERE'S* SOMETHING I'VE ALWAYS *LONGED* TO DO...

...PROVE ONCE AND FOR *ALL* THAT OLD JAKIM WEARS A *HAIRPIECE!*

ONE BEAM FROM MY *RING*, AND--

WHAT!? OH, *NO!* THAT THIEVING, TWO-FACED--

THERE WAS AN *EVIL IDEA* IN YOUR MIND JUST NOW, GRANDSON... AND I AM *GLAD* YOU RESISTED.

IT WOULD BE MOST *UNWORTHY* OF OUR BRAVE *GREEN LANTERN* TO *MISUSE* HIS POWERS, WOULDN'T IT NOW?

SHE SMILES AT THE LAD AS THE *WEB OF HER KNOWLEDGE* TIGHTENS ABOUT HIM...

...THE CARAVAN WILL *SURVIVE* TO TRAVEL THE ANCIENT WAYS... AT LEAST AS LONG AS *SHE* IS THERE TO LEAD IT!

7

ON THE LONELY, ISOLATED PLANET OF ***RHOON***, THERE IS ONLY ***ONE*** PIECE OF LAND WHERE SCIENCE ***DOES NOT*** RULE: THE ***ISLE OF SORCERY.***

ONCE IT WAS A PLACE OF ***EXILE*** FOR THE MAGIC-USERS... BUT IN TIME THEY ***REMADE*** IT INTO A BEAUTIFUL AND CHERISHED ***HOME.***

THEN THE HATED ***SCIENTISTS*** CAME ONCE MORE--DEMANDING THE SORCERERS ***LEAVE*** THE ISLAND! A VEIN OF COVETED ***GLOW-STONE*** HAD BEEN DETECTED THAT THE SCIENTISTS WISHED TO ***MINE.***

BUT, IN THEIR ***YEARS OF EXILE***, THE SORCERERS' POWERS HAD ***GROWN!*** THEY WOULD STAND AND ***DEFEND*** THEIR HOME!

HOLLIKA RAHN, ***GREEN LANTERN***, HELPED DEFEND THE ISLE IN THE ***FIRST*** BRIEF BATTLE--WHICH THE SORCERERS WON ***EASILY!*** BUT ***SHE ALONE*** REALIZED THE SCIENTISTS' ***TRUE STRENGTH.*** YET, WHEN HOLLI TRIED TO ***NEGOTIATE*** WITH A SCIENTIST PILOT, THE MAGICIANS BANISHED ***HER*** IN DISGUST!

HURT AND ANGRY, SHE AND HER FRIEND ***MIKKIN*** MUST ***ABANDON*** THE ONLY HOME THEY HAVE EVER KNOWN...

THEY ***REFUSE*** MY HELP... ***SO LET*** THEM BATTLE! I DON'T CARE ***WHAT*** HAPPENS!

FSSHH...

BA-WHOOM!

THE GUARDIANS OF OA **BEAR WITNESS**, GREEN LANTERN OF RHOON-- YOU HAVE **BETRAYED YOUR SOLEMN OATH!**

HOW **MIGHTILY** YOU HAVE **FAILED!**

TALES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS PRESENTS

GREEN MAGIC™

"TEST OF WILL!"

STORY & LETTERS: TODD KLEIN
PENCILS & INKS: DAVE GIBBONS
COLORIST: NANSI HOOLAHAN
EDITOR: ERNIE COLÓN

N-NO!! PLEASE... LET ME AWAKE FROM THIS... HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE!

PLEASE... LET ME... OH!

GREETINGS, HOLLIKA.

YOUR *FIRST MORNING* ON THE MAINLAND HAS COME--AND WITH IT, AN *END* TO THE *DREAM* I PLACED IN YOUR MIND.

GUARDIAN! GODS, WHAT A *RELIEF* THAT IT'S NOT *TRUE!* BUT, WHY--

A *WARNING*, GREEN LANTERN, OF THE *DANGER* AHEAD IF YOU CONTINUE YOUR *PRESENT COURSE!*

I SEE...

...AND YET I'M STILL SO *CONFUSED.*

SURELY, GREAT ONE, THERE MUST BE *SOMEBODY* BETTER TO HANDLE THIS CRISIS THAN *ME!*

I'M NOT *WORTHY* OF THE RING--WON'T YOU TAKE IT?

SO FAR I'VE DONE NOTHING BUT CAUSE *MORE TROUBLE* FOR MYSELF.

YOU ARE *YOUNG*, HOLLIKA, AND STILL HAVE MUCH TO LEARN-- BUT YOU ARE *WRONG* TO THINK SO *LITTLE* OF YOURSELF! THUS FAR YOU HAVE ONLY USED A *SMALL FRACTION* OF THE POWER OF WHICH YOU ARE CAPABLE.

I WILL *TAKE BACK* THE RING IF YOU TRULY WISH IT... BUT THEN, WHO WILL HELP LITTLE *MIKKIN?*

MIKKIN? WHERE *IS HE?!* HE WAS *FINE* LAST NIGHT--*WHAT HAPPENED!?*

4

I FEAR HE HAD HIS *OWN* PLANS-- AND ONLY WAITED FOR YOU TO FALL *SOUNDLY ASLEEP* BEFORE PURSUING THEM!

LET ME *SHOW* YOU WHAT HAPPENED...

AH... JUST WHAT I *EXPECTED* IN THIS LONELY SPOT...

...A *PATROLMAN* STOPPED FOR A *NAP!*

EXCUSE ME, SIR!

EH--?

I'M FROM THE *ISLE OF SORCERY,* AND I'VE GOT SOME *INFORMATION* YOUR LEADERS WOULD BE *VERY* INTERESTED IN! COULD WE--

ZZAAPPP!!

A *DEEMIL!* LUCKY I CAME BACK WHEN I *DID*-- IT *ALMOST GOT YOU!*

KRANA, YOU IDIOT! IT WAS JUST ABOUT TO TELL ME SOMETHING *IMPORTANT.*

WE LEAVE FOR THE *MINISTRY OF SCIENCE* COMPLEX RIGHT AWAY!

5

THUS IT HAPPENED, SOME HOURS AGO.

OH, MIKKIN, MY ONLY FRIEND...

...WHY DID HE DO IT? HAS HE TURNED AGAINST ME TOO?

I...

IT DOESN'T MATTER! HE'S IN MY CARE, AND IF YOU'LL POINT THE WAY, I'LL GO FIND HIM.

I'M TIRED OF OTHERS' DECISIONS! IT'S TIME TO TRY THINGS MY WAY!

MAY YOU FIND WHAT YOU SEEK, HOLLIKA...

"...THE POWER TO DO SO IS NOW IN YOUR HANDS!"

MEANWHILE, AT THE MINISTRY COMPLEX, SQUADRON LEADER TAHRK SPIES A FAMILIAR FACE...

MIKKIN!

IF HE'S HERE...

...HOLLI CAN'T BE FAR BEHIND! I MUST FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HER--NO MATTER THE COST!

HOLLI FACES THE ENTIRE DEFENSE SYSTEM OF THE CAPITAL CITY OF RHOON IN THE NEXT GREEN MAGIC!

FOR COUNTLESS YEARS, *NO ONE* HAS DARED TO *ATTACK* THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE--

--NERVE CENTER OF THE *SCIENTIST EMPIRE* OF *RHOON!*

GENERATIONS OF WELL-TRAINED DEFENDERS HAVE *LIVED* AND *DIED* WITHOUT EVER SEEING *COMBAT.*

TODAY THOSE TROOPS ARE BEING *DEFIED* BY A *YOUNG GIRL*--

--A GIRL THEY BELIEVE TO POSSESS *BLASPHEMOUS POWERS OF SORCERY!*

I'LL *FIND* YOU, MIKKIN, IF I HAVE TO *BLAST MY WAY IN!*

IN TRUTH, SHE IS MERELY *TRAPPED* BETWEEN THE WARRING FORCES OF *SCIENCE* AND *MAGIC*--TRYING TO SAVE A FRIEND; HOPING TO FIND A WAY TOWARD *PEACE.*

THIS IS HER *TRUST* AND *OBLIGATION*... FOR SHE IS HOLLIKA RAHN-- *GREEN LANTERN!*

TALES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS PRESENTS

GREEN MAGIC™

"TEST OF WILL!" PART TWO

1

TODD KLEIN, STORY & LETTERS • DAVE GIBBONS, ARTIST • NANSI HOOLAHAN, COLORS • ERNIE COLÓN, EDITOR

DEEP INSIDE THE MINISTRY COMPLEX, HOLLI'S FRIEND *MIKKIN* NERVOUSLY AWAITS THE RETURN OF HIS *CAPTORS.*

ABRUPTLY, THE DOOR *SLAMS OPEN!*

UH-OH...NOW THE *REAL* TROUBLE STARTS! HOW DID I EVER GET MYSELF *INTO* THIS?

THE SCIENTIST APPROACHES *PURPOSEFULLY,* UNTIL...

MIKKIN, YOU LITTLE *IDIOT!* WHAT ARE YOU *DOING HERE? WHERE'S HOLLI?*

TAHRK! GOOD OLD TAHRK! I WAS *WORRIED* THERE FOR A WHILE, BUT MY PLAN WORKED *AFTER ALL!*

YOU *PLANNED* TO BE BROUGHT HERE?!

I *INSISTED* ON IT--

--I HAD TO FIND *YOU!* HOLLI'S IN *TERRIBLE TROUBLE,* AND YOU'RE THE *ONLY* ONE WHO CAN HELP!

SHE WAS *BANISHED* BY THE SORCERERS FOR HELPING YOU *ESCAPE.* I *TOLD* HER THAT WAS A MISTAKE, BUT SHE WOULDN'T *LISTEN...*

...AND NOW SHE'S HERE ON THE MAINLAND, SURROUNDED BY *ENEMIES,* WITH *NOWHERE* TO TURN!

BUT, *SAFE* FOR THE MOMENT?

OH, *QUITE* SAFE. IN FACT, WHEN I *LEFT* HER, SHE WAS--

WWOOSHHH

THOOM!

PEOW!

BZZT-T!

ZZIIP!

WHAM!

--SLEEPING QUIETLY...?

THE SIGHT *STUNS* THEM TO SILENCE... BUT ONLY FOR A *MOMENT:*

HOLLI! OVER HERE!! OVER--

WAIT, MIKKIN-- I HAVE A *BETTER* IDEA!

MINUTES LATER, ON THE FIGHTER-CRAFT *FLIGHT DECK...*

CLEAR ME FOR *TAKE-OFF,* RINNI-- I'M *GOING UP!*

YES, *SIR,* SQUAD LEADER! GOING AFTER THAT *CRAZY SORCERESS,* ARE YOU?

YOU BET I AM!

3

SOON...

GETTING WEAKER... NOT *USED* TO THIS!

DON'T THINK I CAN... MAKE IT *INSIDE*...

GODS, ANOTHER *BOMBING RUN!* THIS MAY BE THE *END*, UNLESS--

MIKKIN! WITH *TAHRK!!*

C'MON, HOLLI-- WE'RE GETTING *OUT* OF HERE!

GET IN!

BUT, I THINK--

DON'T ARGUE!

WITH A SIGH OF RELIEF, SHE HURTLES *AFTER* THEM, WITH *SPIRITS*-- IF NOT STRENGTH--*RENEWED!*

④

YOU'RE MUCH TOO *CONSPICUOUS!* I CAN LOSE THEM BETTER WITH *YOU* IN *HERE!*

AS HOLLI SINKS WEARILY TO A SEAT, TAHRK ACCELERATES TO *TOP SPEED*--

--LEAVING THE OTHER AIRCRAFT *FAR BEHIND!*

YOU'VE *GOT TO STOP HIM!* THEY *MUST NOT* ESCAPE!

IT'S *NO USE*, CHIEF MINISTER. TAHRK IS--*WAS*-- ONE OF OUR *BEST* PILOTS.

UNNOTICED, *ANOTHER* SCIENCE MINISTER SLIPS AWAY...

OH, MY SON... HOW *COULD* YOU BETRAY US?

SOME HOURS LATER, IN A REMOTE WASTELAND FAR FROM THE PURSUIT...

I GUESS WE'RE *EVEN* NOW, SCIENTIST. I SAVED *YOUR* LIFE, AND NOW *YOU'VE* SAVED MIKKIN'S AND MINE.

HOLLI-- IT'S *MORE THAN THAT.* I MADE THE *BIGGEST* MISTAKE OF MY *LIFE* WHEN I LEFT YOU LAST TIME...

...BUT I'VE BEEN ALLOWED A *SECOND CHANCE!* I'VE MADE MY CHOICE--AND I WANT TO *HELP* YOU, IF YOU'LL LET ME.

I *ACCEPT*, TAHRK--AND *THANK YOU.* I NEED ALL THE HELP I CAN GET!

I ONLY HOPE YOU WON'T *REGRET* IT...

MUSH AGAIN! I SHOULD HAVE *KNOWN* THIS WOULD HAPPEN!

YOU, MY FRIEND, HAVE A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO! A GUARDIAN OF OA SHOWED ME EVERYTHING YOU DID--EVERYTHING!

WELL, I SHOULD HOPE SO...SINCE IT WAS HIS IDEA!

WHAT!?

MY APOLOGIES, GREEN LANTERN. THE LITTLE ONE'S METHOD OF FINDING TAHRK PROVED FAR MORE DANGEROUS THAN I EXPECTED.

WHO--?

SHE WILL EXPLAIN, PILOT--FOR NOW THAT YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO FIGHT BESIDE HER, YOU MUST SHARE HER SECRET.

THAT IS, IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE, HOLLIKA--AND FACE TESTS EVEN MORE SEVERE THAN THIS!

I...I DO, GUARDIAN. I SEE NOW THAT I HAVE THE WILLPOWER TO USE THE RING AS MY FOSTER MOTHER DID...

...I ONLY WISH I HAD HER WISDOM AS WELL.

WE WILL ALL TRY TO HELP YOU GAIN THAT WISDOM--

6

--BUT, EVEN I AM STILL LEARNING, HOLLIKA. EVEN I.

MILES AWAY, AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE...

SIR? I'VE JUST PROCESSED AN IDENTITY SCAN ON THAT SORCERESS... AND YOU'D BETTER SEE IT FOR YOURSELF!

NO... IT CAN'T BE!

GREEN MAGIC WILL BE BACK! MEANWHILE, STAY TUNED FOR MORE TALES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS!

HE IS WEARY AND HEARTSORE. OVER AND OVER HE REHEARSES THE *NEWS* HE MUST BREAK TO HIS FAMILY.

YET EVEN THE *HUMILIATION* OF THE PAST FEW WEEKS CANNOT PREVENT THE QUIET WARMTH THAT FILLS HIM AS HE APPROACHES THIS WORLD...

...THE QUIET WARMTH OF *HOMECOMING.*

MY PATIENCE IS *REWARDED,* TEACHER! AND *NOW* IS THE TIME FOR MY--

--ATTACK!!

GREEN LANTERN CORPS™

HRHH--?

J-8791

"SUCCESSOR"

TODD KLEIN
STORY & LETTERS

DAVE GIBBONS
ARTIST

JEANINE CASEY
COLORS

ERNIE COLÓN
EDITOR

HIS OLD BONES CREAK AS THE YOUNGSTER *HURLS* HIM TO THE GROUHD! HOW COULD HE HAVE *MISSED* THE AMBUSH? HOW COULD HE?

THEH, LOOKING INTO THE BRIGHT, EAGER EYES OF HIS ATTACKER, BRIN SEES *HIMSELF* AS HE ONCE WAS...

...AND ACCEPTS THE *TRUTH.*

WHACK!

ALL RIGHT, THEN, GUARDIANS! *SO BE IT!*

HREEH! I'D FORGOTTEN HOW *STRONG* YOU ARE--

--BUT ONLY YOUR *RING* COULD HAVE *PROTECTED* YOU, FATHER!

I FEAR *SO*, MY SON! YOU NEARLY *HAD* ME THAT TIME!

CORRECTION, SIR... HE *DID* HAVE YOU.

YES, TEACHER, YOU'RE *QUITE RIGHT*, AS ALWAYS! YOU'VE TRAINED THE BOY *WELL*, JUST AS YOU DID *ME*.

THE HEARTHFIRE *BRIGHTENS* THE FAMILIAR ROOM AS BRIN HUGS HIS WIFE, AND TEACHER HOLDS UP THE GREEN LANTERN'S *INFANT SON* TO BE FUSSED OVER. *OUTSIDE*...

FATHER'S HOME, MERI-- COME GREET HIM!

SO I SHALL.

HE'S BEEN PRAISING *YOU* AGAIN, BROTHER-- I CAN SEE THAT MUCH

AS THEY SETTLE DOWN FOR THE EVENING, BRIN'S THOUGHTS RETURN TO THE *HATED TASK*...

I CAN'T *WAIT* TO HEAR YOUR LATEST ADVENTURE IN *SPACE*, FATHER! *PLEASE* TELL US!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, TEACHER ...WHY DOES *COR* GET ALL THE ATTENTION IN THIS FAMILY? *YOU* KNOW I WORK *JUST AS HARD* AS HE DOES!

LISTEN, THEN-- FOR THIS "ADVENTURE" WILL *AFFECT YOU ALL!*

A FEW CYCLES AGO, MY PATROL TOOK ME TO THE SOLAR SYSTEM OF A NEARBY STAR-- WHERE AN *INVASION* OF THIS SPACE-SECTOR HAD ALREADY *BEGUN!*

AND IN MANY THINGS YOU ARE *BETTER*... BUT YOUR FATHER *SEES HIMSELF* IN COR, EVEN THOUGH I KNOW HE LOVES *YOU* JUST AS MUCH.

FEAR NOT, MERI! WHEN THE RIGHT TIME COMES, I WILL HELP HIM SEE *YOU* MORE CLEARLY.

"THEY CALL THEMSELVES THE *SPIDER GUILD*-- AND MY RING PROBE FOUND THEM TO BE THE COMPUTER-CONTROLLED *DRONES* OF A DISTANT CIVILIZATION BENT ON CONQUERING AND OCCUPYING NEW WORLDS!"

"WHEN *REASON* AND *THREATS* FAILED TO TURN THEM ASIDE, I FOOLIGHLY *RUSHED TO ATTACK*... AND BARELY ESCAPED WITH MY LIFE!"

"HAVING NO RECOURSE, I APPEALED TO THE *GUARDIANS*-!"

"--WHO SENT *OTHER* CORPS MEMBERS TO DO WHAT I COULD NOT."

WHEN THE BATTLE WAS OVER, I WAS *SUMMONED TO OA* TO STAND BEFORE THE GUARDIANS...

TO BE REWARDED FOR *HEROISM*, RIGHT FATHER? I WOULD GIVE *ANYTHING* TO HAVE BEEN THERE!

NO... *NOT QUITE*, SON.

THE GUARDIANS HAD DECIDED TO *RETIRE* ME FROM THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS.

4

OH, HUSBAND-- HOW I'VE *PRAYED* FOR THIS!

YES, MINA... I KNOW... EVEN AS *I* DREADED IT.

AND YET, YOU STILL WEAR THE *RING*, BRIN?

ONLY A SHORT WHILE LONGER, FOR ONE LAST *DUTY* THAT I AM VERY *PROUD* TO PERFORM.

THE GUARDIANS HAVE CHOSEN SOMEONE FROM *THIS FAMILY* TO BE MY *SUCCESSOR!*

WILD, UNLOOKED-FOR *HOPE* SPRINGS UP IN TWO YOUNG HEARTS AS THE *SHIMMERING FORMS* TAKE SHAPE...

ALL IS *PREPARED* FOR YOU, GUARDIANS!

WE ARE READY, *FAITHFUL BRIN*...

...AND SEE THAT THE *CHOSEN ONE* STANDS AMONG YOU!

THE DUTIES ARE *VERY HARD*, MY SON...

I *KNOW* I CAN DO IT!

OH, TEACHER, COULD IT BE *ME* THEY'VE CHOSEN?

QUIET. *LISTEN* TO THE WISE ONES!

THERE STANDS THE SUCCESSOR!

5

ME, GUARDIANS? THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE!

THERE IS NONE.

FOR MANY YEARS WE HAVE WATCHED YOUR WIGDOM AND COURAGE GUIDE AND PROTECT THIS FAMILY. WE CARE NOT THAT YOU ARE A MACHINE-- WE KNOW ONLY THAT YOU ARE THE MOST WORTHY AND NEEDED IN OUR SERVICE!

BUT, I--

YOU KNOW THE TRUTH OF OUR WORDS. FAREWELL!

IN THE SHOCKED SILENCE THAT FOLLOWS...

COR! MERI! WAIT--!

STUPID GUARDIANS!

I HATE YOU, TEACHER!

NO! LEAVE THEM TO ME. YOU HAVE A GREATER RESPONSIBILITY NOW.

THEN I...WILL BEGIN.

BUT I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU--MY FAMILY.

COME VISIT US, TEACHER!

BRIN SIGHS, FEELING A GREAT WEIGHT LIFT FROM HIS SHOULDERS. HERE AT HOME HE IS NEEDED... LEARNING TO DO ALL THE THINGS THAT TEACHER DID SO EASILY... RAISING THE CHILDREN HE KNOWS SO LITTLE ABOUT.

AND, AFTER THEIR TEMPERS HAVE COOLED...

FATHER, MOTHER... I'M SORRY.

WHERE'S TEACHER?

HE'S ALREADY GONE.

I FEEL SO BAD THAT WE DIDN'T EVEN SAY GOODBYE, FATHER...

HE'LL FORGIVE YOU. HE'LL UNDERSTAND. HE ALWAYS DID.

6

Billions of years ago, the Guardians of the Universe created a police force to serve and protect every sector of the galaxy. Recruited for their fearlessness and integrity, these intergalactic peace-keepers serve honorably as the **Green Lantern Corps**.

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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"